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24 August 1982

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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PERSIAN GULF AREA

BRIEFS

PLANNED PARENTHOOD--The Gulf is suffering from a "population problem in reverse"--and now the world's leading family planning organisation is taking action. The International Planned Parenthood Federation is hoping to expand its activities throughout the Gulf and set up offices in all the GCC states. "What the IPPF wants to promote in the Gulf is not to limit the size of families which is of major concern in many developing countries, but rather to promote women's rights and education and child health," said Dr Mohamed Bouzidi, the London-based organisation's Middle East director. So far the IPPF is active in only one of the GCC states--Bahrain--where the first family planning association was founded in 1976. But a rapid expansion of the organisation's activities in the region is now predicted following a seminar in Bahrain held in May. Representatives from many of the Gulf countries agreed that two of the main problems were "child spacing" and responsible parenthood. IPPF's general recommendation is that a woman needs at least two years after the delivery of each child to recover her health or even longer if she is undernourished. Pregnancies that are too closely spaced together increase the risk of anaemia, difficult labour, birth trauma and infection. Also, in the Gulf a large number of families employ nannies to look after their children and this sometimes puts strains on normal family life, Dr Bouzidi said. [Text] [Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 19 Jul 82 p 2]

CSO: 4400/417

COMBAT DATA GIVEN ON PANJSHIR OFFENSIVE

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 30 Jul 82 p 4

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, July 30 (Dispatches) — Soviet troops in their attack on Afghanistan's Panjsher Valley paid a high price, according to an eyewitness account by a western journalist.

In the largest military offensive since the 1979 Soviet military intervention, 90,000 people were left homeless, all crops were destroyed and all farm livestock was killed, according to the report.

"There's nothing left, really nothing. It's as if the Soviets were intent on bombing every square inch of the valley," said Bernd Schulze, a freelance journalist from West Germany who witnessed the month-long operation that began May 15 on the rebel base, 80 miles (100 kms) north of Kabul, the Afghan capital.

"Eighty percent of houses were destroyed. The rest are uninhabitable," he said. "It's impossible to imagine that any humans survived the bombings. It was so intense."

Yet most did survive against overwhelming odds and lived to see the combined Soviet and Afghan army task force withdraw from the 80-mile (130 km) long gorge headquarters for 4,000 Jamiat Islami fighters.

"They've nowhere to return to. There is no food available. Everything was completely destroyed," said Schulze, who spent 3 months inside Afghanistan making a documentary film on the war between the Soviet-backed

government and Muslim rebels.

In an interview with a major news agency Schulze described how he awoke at dawn each day to the sounds of Soviet bombers overhead launching attacks on the rugged valley below.

"After the first explosion we knew the day had begun," he said.

"Some days you could watch the sky for two or three hours and there would be a continuous line of helicopter gunships — it was incredible."

Schulze gave the following account of the battle, the first complete eyewitness account by a westerner.

Planes pounded the valley from dawn until dusk each day, leaving nowhere untouched. Under ground assault with covering air support, heliborne troops were dropped on the steep mountain peaks to effectively surround the Mujahideen or Islamic holy warriors, as the insurgents call themselves.

The operation proved costly for the Soviets, who suffered 3,000 dead and wounded, lost vast quantities of weapons and found the valley empty of the 90,000 Tadjik and Uzbek tribesmen, evacuated days earlier to a neighboring valley by guerrilla commander Ahmad Shah Masud.

The heavily-outnumbered guerrilla forces were able to outwit the invading troops by their intimate knowledge of the Panjsher and by hiding in caves and moving in small groups, he said.

An estimated 8,000 Soviet and 5,000 Afghan army soldiers were mounted for the offensive on Panjsher, which had been a main staging base for guerrilla attacks on Soviet logistic supply columns as well as raids on nearby Bagram Air Base, the biggest Soviet military installation in Afghanistan.

Soviet Massacre of Villagers Reported

Soviet and Afghan government troops attacked six villages in the Logar Province south of the Afghan capital of Kabul and massacred all the inhabitants in an operation last week, a Swedish diplomat said Wednesday.

Carl Schonmeyer, a former United Nations Development Program (UNDP) chief in Peshawar, Pakistan, said in Stockholm that more than 2,000 residents, including women and children, were killed in the attack on the villages of Muhammad Agha, Baraki, Ajawond, Ab-Dara, Barak and Pad Khab.

Schonmeyer, who cited reliable

sources for his information, said the attack was part of a current operation to remove anti-Soviet guerrillas from the Logar Valley.

The diplomat currently is the head of an aid department in the Swedish foreign ministry.

Schonmeyer said MiG planes attacked the villages before infantry and motorized columns moved in.

"The Afghan troops came first with the Russians behind them to prevent them from retreating," he said.

"They shot at everything — men, women and children as well as donkeys and chickens. Then they plundered the villages and wrecked the underground irrigation ditches without which no harvest is possible in the area," said Schonmeyer.

The Logar Valley, under attack from the guerrillas, lies close to the strategic Kabul-Kandahar Road used by Soviet and Afghan government troops to move military units and supplies, Schonmeyer said.

CSO: 4600/709

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

BRIDGE OVER AMU DARYA--The 10th of June marks the end of the 2-month period since the commissioning of the bridge over Amu Darya near Port Termez in southern Uzbek SSR. The bridge is mainly for vehicle transport and it has contributed toward organized transport of goods from the Soviet Union to the DRA and vice versa. The Soviet Union is supplying [words indistinct], agricultural machinery, technical instruments and construction equipment to the DRA. Meanwhile, the latter is exporting fruits, wool and [words indistinct] to the Soviet Union. The bulk of DRA exports to Europe is transported over this bridge. Meanwhile, an international transport (?company) has been set up in Termez. Compared with last year, the amount of goods transported on vehicles this year is expected to double. [Text] [GF111318 Tashkent International Service in Uzbek 1700 GMT 10 Jul 82 GF]

CSO: 1836/4

NATIONAL BANK EARNINGS REPORTED

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 25, 26 Jul 82 pp 11-12

[Text]

The National Bank of Bahrain increased its net operating income in the first six months of this year to BD 5.1 million (\$13.6 million), a rise of nearly 60 per cent. According to the general manager, Nooruddin A Nooruddin, the higher earnings resulted from substantially increased net interest margins and fee income.

The figures do not include profits made on handling four heavily over-subscribed offshore company share issues. Another share issue, for the United Gulf Bank, is under way. Gains made on all these operations will be revealed in NBB's 1982 annual report.

Consolidated assets stood at BD 454 million (\$1.2 billion) at the end of June, a rise of 38.5 per cent, while the return on average assets rose from 2.05 per cent to 2.42 per cent. Loans, advances and overdrafts were up 24 per cent to BD166 million (\$440 million). However, the deposits to loans ratio climbed from 132 per cent to 175.5 per cent thanks to a 65 per cent increase in customer deposits.

Meanwhile, the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK) has disclosed net profits of BD 6.2 million (\$16.5 million) for the first six months of this year, compared to BD6.7 million for the whole of 1981. The figures do not include gains made on the handling of

offshore company share subscriptions.

The BBK has thus for the first time made higher profits than the older National Bank of Bahrain, in which the government has a large stake. BBK is a joint venture between private investors in Bahrain and Kuwaiti financial institutions and was founded in 1972.

The two banks together with a third, Al-Ahli Commercial Bank, are estimated to have earned about \$70 million this year on the handling of offshore company share issues. BBK is thought to do about 70 per cent of the business, but the windfall profits are carved up by the three banks on the basis of a two-year-old agreement designed to avoid excessive competition.

Earnings in the second half are not expected to be as high, since investors have shown less interest in the current \$17 million subscription for UGB, which is to be completed at the end of this month. Another issue, for a local investment company interested in transforming itself from a private into a public company, may come onto the market in the autumn. But investors may prefer to put their money into BBK, which is planning a BD19.5 million (\$52 million) rights issue in October.

CSO: 4400/403

LABOR MINISTRY TAKES MEASURES AGAINST DOCUMENT FORGERY

Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 20 Jul 82 p 3

[Text]

BAHRAIN is to clamp down on employers involved in black-marketing labour documents.

The Ministry of Labour has asked the Interior Ministry to help people taking part in the illegal business of selling "free visas", a popular term for No Objection Certificates among expatriate workers.

Abdulla Al-Madani, under-secretary at the Ministry of Labour, said some unscrupulous employers manage to get NOCs for workers purely to make money.

Once the worker arrives on the island after paying huge amounts to the employer and his agent for the NOC, he finds himself without any job.

Then the employer comes to his "rescue" by issuing a release and asking him to find another sponsor.

"Now we are trying to trace the source of this blackmarket," said Mr Al Madani.

The Ministry usually issues labour permits for expatriates according to the eligibility and requirements of the companies concerned.

"The names of employers who cheat the Ministry and engage in such illegal business will be put on our black list. And they will not be issued with any more work permits in future," Mr Al-Madani said.

At the same time, the Ministry will help the jobless expatriates find alternative employment.

"If we don't find suitable positions for them, they will be repatriated to their native countries," Mr Al Madani added.

BRIEFS

EXHIBITION CENTER APPROVED--Bahrain Exhibition Centre's new permanent home has been given the official rubber stamp. Yesterday, lease, allowing the centre's move to its new Central Market location was signed by the Central Municipal Council Chairman, Shaikh Abdulla Bin Mohammed Al-Khalifa and Dennis Casson, chief executive of the Arabian Exhibition Management (AEM). Mr Casson said the east hall of the Central Market would now be refurbished to international exhibition standard, in preparation for Arabbuild 82, planned for November 14-19. The new project will cost around BD 150,000, and facilities will include a 450-seat air conditioned conference hall. "We also have to upgrade the electrical system, install new telephone network and prepare an open site for the container storage terminal," Mr Casson said. The premises will provide an inside space of more than 10,000 square metres where as the red and white tents disappearing from the old site provided only 8,000 square metres. The tent structures which had become a landmark were set up four years ago. "But we have now decided to move in order to meet the big demand experienced from international companies and governments to display their products to the Gulf market," Mr Casson said. He added the new premises, in the heart of the town and closer to the suq and hotels would serve Bahrain's business community and the Gulf traders in a better way. It has been allocated to the AEM on a five-year lease which is renewable. Saeed Ali Al-Sairafi, director of finance administration and legal affairs at the municipality said the land at the old site has been sold in individual plots for villas. [Text] [Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 28 Jul 82 p 4]

PORT EXPANSION--Bahrain's port is to undergo a multi-million dinar expansion programme shortly. The container terminal at Mina Sulman will be extended to cope with the massive cargo growth. Director of ports Eid Abdulla Yousuf said tenders would be out soon to buy new equipment including two ship-to-shore gantry cranes and six container-lifting straddle carriers and forklift trucks. The port already has two gantry cranes for discharging and loading containers. The container cargo shipped last year at Mina Sulman showed a 145 percent increase over 1980. Mr Yousuf said container trans-shipment also showed a tremendous growth--a staggering increase of 594 percent during the first half of 1981 compared with the same period in 1980. Containers now account for some 55 percent of total tonnage and general cargo has been moving over to containers at a rate of about five percent a month. The total tonnage going through Mina Sulman last year was 2.35 million tonnes, an increase of about 62 percent over 1980's figure of 1.45 million tonnes. To

cope with the growth an extra 200-metre berthing length would be added to the existing 400-metre berth, Mr Yousuf said. "Extra storage facilities for 2,000 tonnes of cargo will also be built," he added. [Text] [Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 19 Jul 82 p 5]

LOAN FOR CYPRUS PROJECTS--Bahrain--An eight-year \$70 million loan has been syndicated in Bahrain to finance development projects in Cyprus. This is the first of its kind to be dealt with in Bahrain and the signing ceremony will be in Cyprus next week. Lead managers are the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Arab Ban, Gulf International Bank and Manufacturers Hanover. [Text] [Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 24 Jul 82 p 11]

DATE PROCESSING PLANT--Bahrain's first date processing plant will be completed early next year giving a much needed boost to the island's declining industry. The BD600,000 plant in the Mina Sulman industrial area should encourage more farmers to buy and grow date palms, says Jaffar Habib, chief engineer at the Directorate of Agriculture. "Dates will be cut at an early stage of maturity during August and September and will be frozen and processed for use in the winter and spring," he said. "We will start collecting dates from Budaiya farmers next month and keep them for the time being at Banz cold stores. They will be paid a reasonable price for their products. The idea ultimately is to help the farmers sell and market their products more efficiently. "We hope to store around 200 tonnes of dates this year. The capacity of the plant is 1,000 tonnes which is 10 percent of Bahrain's total production," said Mr Habib. Eventually the amount will be increased to between 2,000 and 3,000 tonnes a year. [Text] [Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 20 Jul 82 p 5]

ARAB BANKING CORPORATION ASSETS--The Arab Banking Corporation has disclosed an 80 per cent rise in assets, excluding contra items, to \$6.3 billion on June 30, compared to \$3.5 billion at mid-year in 1981. ABC hopes to achieve a total of \$7.5 billion by the end of the year as against \$4.8 billion at the end of 1981. Total loans and advances rose in the first six months to \$1.9 billion from \$1.2 billion a year earlier, while the bond portfolio stayed at about \$300 million. ABC is reported to be diversifying its activities in the area of investment broking mergers and acquisitions. These include the creation of an investment division in its London office, the opening of a full ABC branch in Singapore and the establishment of a branch in Milan due to open later this year. ABC, one of Bahrain's biggest banks, was set up in 1980 with a paid-up capital of \$750 million. In its first 20 months of operation to December 1981, net earnings totalled \$139 million. Increased profits are expected for this year. [Text] [Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 25, 26 Jul 82 p 11]

FOREIGN WORKERS STATISTICS--A new survey suggests a large increase in migrating workers to the Gulf. But Bahrain's growth during the past two years does not seem to conform to the International Labour Organisation's forecast. In 1975 migrant workers in the Gulf numbered 1.6 million and the survey suggests there will be four million 10 years on in 1985. However, officials in Bahrain find this difficult to believe as the expatriate labour force has only increased by 1,800 since 1979. This does not mean that there is not a large number of workers entering the country each year. Last year 22,000 work permits were issued to new workers and 20,800 the year before. One labour official said: "This only signifies a turnover of workers, not the increase predicted by the ILO survey." [Text] [Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 8-9 Jul 82 p 1]

CABINET STEPS UP MARKET CONTROL

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 29 Jul 82 p 3

[Text] The Cabinet in its meeting yesterday decided to intensify control over the markets to stop greedy merchants from tampering with prices through promoting the bodies entrusted with market control, the Minister of Information, Mr Safwat el-Sherif said.

In the light of the information submitted to the Cabinet by the Minister of the Interior, Mr Hassan Abu Basha on the situation in the markets, the Cabinet decided to take the necessary measures to impose strict control over the markets and prevent those who try to accumulate wealth against the interests of the people, Mr Sherif said.

Mr Abu Basha told the Cabinet that supply police had filed 2000 cases for tampering in prices, hiding commodities or violating price indexes during the past few weeks.

In accordance with the instructions of the Prime Minister Dr Fuad Mohieddin, the cabinet took a number of decisions to deal with the situation immediately. Among these is the setting up of a permanent office of the control body in every district and province, Mr Sherif said.

This control office would supervise the proper adherence to prices laid down by the authorities and receive the complaints of the people and deal with situation on the spot, he added.

The Cabinet also decided to set up a technical secretariat for prices to be affiliated to the Cabinet to follow up the developments in the markets and ensure adherence to the official prices in addition to supervising the work of the control bodies, Mr Sherif said.

He added that the Cabinet also instructed the Taxation Department to intensify its inspection of the various trade activities and the prices of artisans as well as making sure that instructions are carried out, that is that prices should be clearly fixed.

Measures should be taken to increase the quantities of some commodities in the market which are in great demand and to stop any bottlenecks which might tempt greedy merchants to exploit the situation, he said.

He added that the Cabinet had decided to increase new outlets for the distribution of commodities through the Ministry of Supply and the circumstances. [sentence as published]

Dr Mohiedding stressed the necessity that all public sector companies should raise the prices of their products under any circumstances.

Meanwhile governors were instructed to intensify their control over the markets in their respective governorates and to fix the prices of artisans to prevent them from exaggeration in the costs of their services.--GSS

CSO: 4500/268

EXPORTS TO WEST GERMANY TRIPLE IN FOUR YEARS

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 1 Aug 82 p 3

[Text] Egyptian exports to West Germany have increased substantially in recent years as a result of mutual economic cooperation, the Egyptian Minister, Councillor for Trade in Bonn, Dr Hassan Kamaj Hassanain said.

Exports to West Germany increased from 192 million Marks in 1977 to 634 million Marks in 1981 or by 300 percent. Approximately half of the exports covers aluminium, cotton, textiles, vegetables and fruits, Dr Hassanain said.

He added that the financial aid agreement between Egypt and West Germany for 1982 meets the demands and ambitions of the Egyptian development plan.

Efforts to establish the Egyptian-West German Business Council are well underway. The Council is expected to hold its constituent meeting next autumn, the Egyptian official said.

He added that German exports to Egypt were also responding to Egyptian interests as most were for production purposes and a small part consisted of consumer goods.

Mr Hassanain said that German exports to Egypt last year totalled 2540 million Marks out of which 742 million Marks for the purchase of machinery, 573 million Marks in chemical products, 295 million Marks in iron and steel, 205 million Marks in engineering products and the remaining 206 million Marks covered production goods and raw materials.

Concerning financial aid, West Germany has granted Egypt 277 million Marks easy loans, payable over 50 years at an interest rate less than 1 percent, he added.

He said most of the loans directed to complete previous projects in accordance with the development plan. A great part of these loans covered projects in the provinces in order to accelerate their pace of development and help their economic flourishing.--GSS

CSO: 4500/268

UNIVERSITY TRANSFER SYSTEM QUESTIONED

Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 10 Jul 82 p 3

/Article by Rif'at Fayyad: "The University Presidents Demand That This Game Be Stopped at Once"/

/Text/ There still is a great imbalance in the university acceptance process. This imbalance is known as the geographical transfer /system/. University experts demand that the game of geographical transfers be stopped at once, because as far as the students go it has become a matter of luck before all else--especially now that the number of students who are benefitting from this "game" has swollen to 15,000 a year.

The Cairo University council has issued a decree reducing the number of people accepted to the university faculties by a rate ranging from 20 to 30 percent. This decree has raised a number of questions: does the university council have the right to reduce the numbers; or is this the responsibility of the Higher University Council?

Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, chairman of the Higher University Council, asserts that no university has the right to determine any increases or reductions in the numbers of people admitted. This is the task of the Higher University Council, which is the body that sets and outlines university education policy in Egypt.

Dr Hasan Hamdi, president of Cairo University, replies "In the event agreement is not given to a reduction in the numbers and the Cairo University Council decree is rejected, I will have no choice but to refuse to accept the transfer of any student within the 20 percent share allotted for geographical transfers."

There are other opinions. The issue is still being discussed. Presidents of universities have a view on this subject and they have recommendations. However, they, or most of them, demand that the game of geographical transfers among universities be stopped at once.

At the outset, Dr Kamil Laylah, the president of 'Ayn Shams University, says, "The faculty councils determine the number of students who have obtained general secondary degrees and can be admitted to those faculties on the basis of the faculties' resources, laboratories and auditoriums and the number of faculty members they have."

The number will be presented to the university council, which will discuss it in a more comprehensive light and may add the number the faculty has determined. It will present this to the Higher University Council, to which all the universities are subject. At the university council, the numbers are determined in accordance with very many considerations and rulings on these are not made arbitrarily.

People Who Have Passed General Secondary

"In reality, there is an ongoing complaint in university education. We all agree that the universities are crammed with great numbers of students and that they have many more than they can accommodate in the practical and theoretical faculties both. Students at university must have adequate room in university auditoriums and laboratories alike. The objective is not to fill up the auditoriums with heaps of students who are piled up on top of one another and then to say that we are giving them an education. But what can we do with the numbers of people who have passed general secondary, whom we have to take in? The solution is not to reduce the numbers of people admitted by the University Council. Otherwise, if every university did that, what would be the destiny of the people who passed general secondary this year and whom I, as a university, refused to admit? So far we have not been able to refuse to admit people transferring from the University of Beirut to Egyptian universities, although this phenomenon is a great mistake which must be stopped. However, as to when the situation will be corrected, I cannot refuse a student who has passed in Beirut and wants to transfer to Egypt.

"As for reducing the numbers of people admitted to university, that will be acceptable only if the reduction is made upon admission to general secondary, that is, at the source; and I should not wait until these large numbers pass and then after that refuse to admit them."

What Is Needed Is a Reduction in the Numbers of People Admitted

Dr Yahya Shahin, president of al-Minya University, and Dr Yahya Mas'ud, president of al-Mansurah University, said:

"The increase has now brought Egyptian universities to about 40 percent of the numbers that must be admitted in accordance with the government's needs. This was revealed by a report by 14 ministries which presented copious studies to the Higher University Council last year. This study was made for the first time and specified the needs in each of the ministries' various sectors. We must seek to reduce the numbers in the universities any way we can and respect the conclusions of these studies. It is not reasonable that the situation should reach the point where lecturers in a theoretical faculty for example give a single lecture twice a day to one class of students which has been divided into two groups. The solution will not arise by making reductions in the university councils; otherwise we will be faced with the problem of /what to do with/ students who pass general secondary this year. Rather, the solution will arise by breaking general education down into branches of general secondary and technical education and reducing the number of people who enroll in general secondary. I was happy to learn that the number of people admitted to technical education now is 60 percent, as compared with 40 percent in general secondary."

Solving the Problem Will Benefit the Universities

The issue of 'geographical transfers,' or the 20 percent, and the threat by the president of Cairo University to refuse to admit any student through this system unless agreement is given to his demand that the number of people admitted be reduced by this percentage, has stirred up intense discussions among faculty deans themselves and university presidents. Many people have asserted that solving this problem will eliminate a great university problem which everyone has failed to solve so far, especially in the case of universities in centers of attraction, such as Cairo University, for instance. The strange thing is that the number of students benefiting from the 'geographical transfer game' as people call it, is greater than 15,000 a year.

The Game of Geographical Transfers

The story is simple. If a student receives a specific grade average in general secondary, is a resident of Cairo, and wants to enter an engineering faculty there, but it is discovered that his average is below the minimum permitted for acceptance, he will at that point start to apply "the game." He will present his papers to the coordinating office, writing down all the engineering faculties that exist in the republic. When the admissions results are announced, he will of course find that he has been accepted to engineering in Asyut, for instance. At this point he will exploit the 'geographical transfer game,' will present an application to Cairo University, affixing a receipt from the coordinating office and a nomination card to that, and will apply for transfer to engineering in Cairo.

The Higher University Council allows every faculty to admit 20 percent of the people who were accepted through the coordinating office by being transferred from corresponding faculties in various universities, on condition that priority go to girls if the number of students being transferred exceeds this percentage.

This Game Is a Fraud and a Delusion

On the issue of geographical transfers, Dr Sulayman al-Tamawi, former dean of the Faculty of Law at 'Ayn Shams, states: "This experiment must be stopped at once because it must be considered a fraud and a delusion from the legal standpoint. It is in reality more serious than the other exceptions by which people are allowed to enter the university." This is because as he said we will be causing constant congestion in existing universities in Cairo and will also be giving students who have obtained averages below the minimum for the faculty they wish to be transferred to an opportunity to get admitted to it, in defiance of everyone.

He went on to say, "We opened the regional universities in order to reduce pressure on the universities in Cairo. If they cannot solve the problem, let us shut them down at once."

Dr Sulayman al-Tamawi asked "What is the use of the coordinating office after this, if the universities are to start breaking its rules once it finishes apportioning students? Why do the faculties declare as soon as the general secondary results are announced that they do not have the capacity to accommodate a specific number,

and we are then surprised to see this number exceeding the 20 percent through transfers, which it generally does?

"That proves that we are functioning without plans in our university education system and that we have no admissions policy which conforms to the needs of society. I consider that students who insist on joining a specific faculty, even if it is in another governorate besides their own should stay there, and we should not let the transfer, as long as their general secondary average does not permit them to go to the faculty located in their governorate."

A Surfeit of Engineers and Scarcity of Plumbers

Dr Ahmad Kamal 'Aziz, dean of engineering at Cairo, supported a large part of Dr al-Tamawi's statement, stressing that the geographical transfer system is nothing but a kind of disguised exception-making and a disruption of the equal opportunity rule.

He asserted "It would be fair to eliminate this system at once, because it has given a group of students opportunities which should have been available to other students who wanted to join these faculties but were not qualified to do so by their grade averages, since the minimum there exceeded their averages by half a point or a point, for instance, so they joined other faculties, whereas the students who exploited the opportunity to make geographical transfers did enroll in these faculties, which are situated in their own governorates, by being transferred there, though some of those students' grade averages might be five whole points below the minimum. In addition to this, another group of students outside the 20 percent have been deprived of chances and the faculties have refused to admit them, after they had declared that they were stopping at that percentage. Therefore, the process has become a matter of luck. This proves that we do not know what numbers we want to graduate in each field of specialization. Therefore we are now living in a country where there is a surfeit of engineers and plumbers are scarce. This phenomenon has become as serious as it can be. A labor foreman's wages are now no less than 10 pounds a day while an engineer's wage does not exceed 3 pounds a day. Engineers here are now doing work that foremen used to do, now that the foremen have left and gone to Arab countries."

Setting the Numbers for Each Faculty

Three university presidents have given agreement to a recommendation which had crystallized in their minds on the solution to this problem. They are Dr 'Abd-al-Majid 'Uthman, president of the Suez Canal University, Dr 'Abd-al-Raziq Hasan, president of al-Mansurah University. The recommendation, as Dr 'Abd-al-Majid 'Uthman presents it, is that we should now start having a united category available for admission to corresponding faculties, once each faculty spells out the numbers it requires. That is, we should declare that the faculties of medicine, for instance, will accept everyone redefining a grade average of more than 85 percent, and each faculty should start receiving applications for admission and arranging people's names in accordance with their grades until they receive their necessary quota in full. For example, the medical faculty at Cairo might be filled at a minimum /grade average/ of 88 percent. This is acceptable, as long as it does take

in the numbers it requires. A student who receives less than 88 percent can only look for another regional faculty of medicine which will accept his grade average. If he is accepted in one such faculty, he should settle down there and should not be allowed to transfer because he joined it purely of his own will.

The Complex on Transferring Will Disappear

Dr 'Abd-al-Raziq Hasan, president of Asyut University, has a different opinion which is greatly at variance with that of the president of the Suez Canal University. This is that once the admissions category has been determined in the faculties of medicine, for instance, the computer will distribute students geographically to their faculties in light of the resources of each faculty and the government's needs. The computer will distribute people whose rank in the list of names nominated for admission to the medical faculties will not allow them to join their regional faculties, where all the places are filled, to the faculty of medicine closest to their own governorates, and they will not be permitted to transfer to any other faculty. Thereby the psychological complex that exists among students to the effect that the Qasr al-'Ayni Medical /Faculty/ is better than that in Asyut or Alexandria or the like will disappear. It is this complex that causes many students to rush to embrace the geographical transfer process.

The issue will remain unresolved until the Higher University Council reviews it at its next meeting right after Little Bayram. At that meeting it will also set the number of people who have passed the general secondary this year and will be admitted to each university.

11887

CSO: 4504/408

PROBLEMS OF POOR FRUIT DISTRIBUTION IN CAIRO REVIEWED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 5 Jul 82 p 9

/Article by Muhyi-al-Din Fathi: "Why Is Fruit Disappearing from Cairo in Spite of the Increase in Fruit Production and Areas under Fruit Cultivation?"

/Text/ Although production of most types of fruit and vegetable has increased this summer, as compared with last year, going by Ministry of Agriculture estimates, Cairo has witnessed an obvious drop in the levels of fruit supplied. It has reached the point of scarcity of some varieties on occasion and an insane increase in prices in spite of their low prices in production areas; in addition, great discrepancies in the prices of a given variety have manifested themselves from one section to another.

Why is fruit disappearing from Cairo? Who is responsible for this--the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Supply, the farmers, the merchants or the consumers?

Merchants' Speculation!

Dr Sayyid 'Azzuz, director of the Ministry of Agriculture's Institute of Horticultural Research, says that in spite of the increase in fruit and vegetable productivity throughout the republic (except for mangoes and pears) and the increase in the area allocated to their production, a very large decline is to be observed in the amounts of fruit supplied in Cairo for several reasons, among them:

1. Speculation by wholesale and retail merchants jointly, in order to evade pricing by bringing fruit from the orchards directly to the markets without going through wholesale markets, to avoid supply investigators, or by keeping the fruit, especially citrus, on the trees for a long period of time, until the variety ceases to be subject to pricing. This keeps a large percentage of the varieties from appearing in Cairo. Then the merchants hide some types of fruit to sell to new classes of people who have a greater ability to pay the high prices.
2. Prohibitions on the shipment of fruit out of some governorates in order that the fruit may be made available to local residents. Examples of that are the Aswan Governorate's decision to prevent the shipment of mangoes out of the governorate last year and to supply them on the market at a cost of just 46 piasters per

kilogram, in the case of deluxe categories, whereas they are supplied in Cairo at 2 to 4 pounds per kilogram. Aswan mangoes appear early in the month of June while Delta mangoes do not appear until July or August.

Dr Sayyid 'Azzuz adds that the average per-feddan productivity for most fruit has risen this year in comparison with the last. In the case of apricots, it has risen from 3.5 to 4 tons; plums have risen from 1.25 to 1.5 tons, peaches from 4 to 4.5 tons and summer oranges from 8 to 10 tons. Average per feddan productivity totals 5 tons in the case of grapes, 4 tons in the case of guavas, 5 tons for pomegranates and 12 tons for prickly pears. The date crop promises a good harvest. However, /output of/ some types of fruit is in a constant state of decline, for example figs, where there has been encroaching construction on the north coast and the uprooting of fig trees to be replaced by buildings. Mango crop production is also declining this year because it has been seriously afflicted by fungus diseases such as fine eggs and anthraxose and because producers have not committed themselves to the research centers' pesticide spraying program even once or twice /a season/. This has led to the spread of diseases in the mango orchards, the dropping off of mango buds and consequently an anticipated decline in the average per feddan production of mangoes to just 2 tons this year while in previous years it ranged from 4 to 6 tons. Pear output is also declining to 3 tons per feddan on the average whereas it was 5 tons per feddan in past years. This was a result of environmental factors, because the winter season was warmer than necessary, and this led to an absence of blooming.

Where Are the Austrian Melons?

Dr Sayyid Nassar, deputy minister of agriculture for horticultural affairs, asserts, "Cairo has become a scene attracting fruit marketing, and merchants avoid it because of the severe provisions on oversight over prices. Indeed, the governorates market more fruit, in accordance with supply and demand, because there is no pricing oversight, although various circumstances prevent increases in quantities of certain fruit and vegetables, such as ordinary casabas (such grades as al-Waraq, Kafr Hakim and al-Isma'ili), whose volumes have declined to the point of scarcity, indicating that they may disappear in the future with the advent of new varieties such as honeydews and canteloupes, which will flood the market in future years because of their small size and their high percentage of sugar. The quantity of Austrian and American melons has also declined to the point of scarcity because they were planted late, in the month of May, out of a desire for greater profit from the cultivation of fava beans in February. As a result of the delay in their planting they were stricken with a physiological disease, fruit shrinkage rot, a black rot on the side of the melon which results in crop loss and low output. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture does not import seeds for these varieties of American or Austrian melon and does not produce them, because farmers avoid them; however, the ministry is seeking to introduce new strains which are more resistant to pests, including certain Japanese and American varieties such as the sunsweet watermelon variety."

Mustafa Zaki Taha, director general of branches, research and statistics in the Cairo Chamber of Commerce, lists the reasons for the shortage of fruit in the capital as:

1. This season's prohibition on imports of substitute fruit, which was available last year, especially bananas, apples, Turkish and Greek peaches, Italian pears and so forth. In spite of their relatively high price, they varied from 75 to 90 piasters per kilogram, prices which are considered lower than those for local melons by 1.5 to 2 pounds--if the latter are available.
2. Producers' and farmers' reluctance to expand fruit cultivation because pricing does not take actual production costs into account.
3. The fact that the current summer period is marked by an increase in buying power because of returning teachers from abroad and Arab tourists in Cairo.
4. Construction expansion about the belt of the city, which has resulted in the disappearance of many orchards for such fruit as bananas. Housing and factory construction activities have encroached on the various edges of Cairo at Usim, Nahiya, and Tanash up to al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah, which are among the most important banana producing areas, while further acreage has not been allotted to the cultivation of bananas or imported exceptional seedlings, threatening the disappearance of bananas.
5. The prolongation of freezer storage periods for some fruit such as summer oranges in order to evade pricing and sell to large hotels, juice shops or affluent consumers at prices between 35 and 80 piasters per kilogram, that is, more than double the compulsory price level.

Exports Are Not the Problem

Eng Husayn Makkawi, director of the Fruit and Miscellaneous Products Department of the al-Wadi Crop Export Company (public sector), asserts that the shortage in the volume of fruit in Cairo is not attributable to high export rates or even increased local consumption; rather, the reason is the absence of coordination or planning between the Ministries of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, which indicates that fruit may disappear totally from Egypt. He wonders why the Ministry of Agriculture doesn't conduct supervision of the cultivation of Agrarian Reform orchards and then hand the production over to the Ministry of Supply to offer to the public at suitable prices through consumer societies, why fruit is not basically cultivated in the al-Salihyah area, and why 30,000 feddans are allocated to high-quality grapes in Liberation Province to be processed into wine and raisins but not offered on the market.

Activating the Marketing Societies

Dr Sayyid Nassar recommends as a solution to the problem:

1. Activating marketing societies, which do not amount to more than signs, and producers' societies, so that fruit and vegetables can get from the farmers directly to the producers at the appropriate prices and quantities without the intervention of middlemen, provided that these societies be furnished with packaging equipment, storage refrigerators, modern transportation vehicles, distribution outlets and high levels of expertise in order to be able to perform their real role.

2. Reviewing laws on cooperatives, which have become optional, in order to permit every interested person to join and not insist on a proportion of 80 percent peasants and 20 percent intellectuals. Intellectuals can profit orchards in their villages with their knowledge and expertise, if only through weekly visits.
3. Eliminating compulsory pricing on fruit and vegetables, leaving them subject to supply and demand.
4. Giving attention to the fruit and vegetable transaction process, following the collection of the harvest and using modern scientific methods in packaging, preserving and transportation activities in order to reduce waste, which comes to 28 percent in the case of vegetables and 19 percent in the case of fruit, by creating a balance among varieties so that scarcities or oversupplies of certain types will not occur at one time at the expense of others.
5. Reviewing wholesale markets, which are no longer suitable and lack modern equipment and supplies, flexible systems and trained experts.

The Search for New Fruit

Dr Zaynab Hamdi, head of the Limited Circulation Fruit Section in the Horticultural Institute, says that the Ministry of Agriculture is now looking for ways to increase certain types of fruit whose circulation in Egypt is limited, especially coconuts, cacao, papayas, (bashamel), sweetsop, (thabuta) and (casmaro), because of their high food value, their high vitamin content and their low prices in comparison with traditional fruit, as well as the fact that they enjoy a good taste and suitable aroma, although it will take some time for the public to become accustomed to all of these. Their cultivation has been a success in Ministry of Agriculture stations, and the ministry is offering seedlings of these varieties to farmers at token prices, as well as offering the production of these stations at cost.

11887

CSO: 4504/396

DISCOVERY OF IMPORTANT MINERALS ANNOUNCED

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 29 Jul 82 p 2

[Text] The Chairman of the Geological Survey and Mining Projects Authority, Mr Mahmoud Za'atout yesterday announced that a number of important minerals have been recently discovered at the governorates of Fayyum, Beni Suef and Menia in Upper Egypt and the governorates of Matruh and North Sinai on the northern coast of the country.

Mr Za'atout also said that a geological map is now being made to determine the types of minerals and rocks surrounding the Greater Cairo area which can be used for housing and reconstruction purposes.

In Sinai, said the Chairman of the Authority, coal has been discovered at the areas of Bedaa and Thoura. The studies made by the experts of the Authority estimated the total quantity of coal at these areas of 60 million tons which could be used for the industrial projects of the two Sinai governorates.

On the other hand, gypsum has been discovered for the first time in an area of 13 square kilometres at Karet el-Fors in Fayyum Governorate. Studies affirmed that more than 7 million tons of gypsum could be extracted from this area, Mr Za'atout said.

Gypsum has also been discovered at Gabal el-Taoeel, in Beni Suef Governorate in an area of 130 square kilometres. Experts expect to extract more than 15 million tons of gypsum from this area.

In addition, said Mr Za'atout, an international consultant bureau is now making a comprehensive survey of the manganese sources in Sinai. Manganese is a vital material for the iron and steel industry and for the production of batteries and glass.

The Authority has also completed a geological map of Gabal el-Galala area, near Suez, where a project for the generation of electricity will be soon established, Mr Za'atout said.

A geological map will be soon made of the southern area of the Western Desert in order to evaluate the mineral potentials of the area and possibilities for establishing industrial projects there, the Chairman of the Authority added.--GSS

EGYPT

BRIEFS

WORKERS ABROAD--An official source at the Ministry of Manpower and Vocational Training yesterday announced that according to a recent survey made by the Ministry, the number of Egyptian workers abroad has reached three million. The survey also revealed that of these 2,5 million are working in Arab countries while the other 0,5 million are working in Europe. [Text]
[Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 5 Aug 82 p 2]

CSO: 4500/268

REPORTERS INSPECT WAR BOOTY CAPTURED FROM IRAQ

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Jul-2 Aug 82 pp 2, 3

[Text]

KARBALA HEADQUARTERS (IRNA) - More than 40 Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers out of 101 seized from the enemy during the Ramadhan offensive were inspected Tuesday by a number of IRNA reporters in the fronts.

A large number of the armored vehicles were almost brand new or undamaged and others were being repaired and prepared to join one of the Armored Divisions of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards.

During this visit, which took place in one of the southern operational fronts, heavy logistical machinery including loaders, earth diggers, cranes and trailers were also seen, all seized from the Iraqis.

The reporters, who were being escorted by the Commander of this Armored Division, explained that most of the tanks were Soviet-made T-54, T-55, T-62s and also the more sophisticated T-72s which were going to be used against the Iraqi forces in the near future. The seized carriers he added were PMP 1,2, and 3s while a group of Islamic Revolutionary Guards were seen either busy repairing them or

training other Guards on how to use the equipment. The Commander said that the vehicles were seized from the Iraqi 49th Border Brigade, and the 5th, 6th and 9th Divisions.

He said the tanks equipped with mortar launchers were never used by the Iraqi forces in previous operations.

However, in the battlefronts, one Iraqi motor pool and several group bunkers were pounded Monday as the enemy logistical routes in the western regions of Sumar, Qasr-e Shirin and Gilan-e Gharb came under the heavy artillery fire of the Iranian combatants which also killed or wounded some Iraqi soldiers.

Exchanges of fire persisted in most of the western fronts while the Islamic Forces smashed enemy positions and logistical points in the regions of Meimak, Kani Mangah, Valia-veh, and Maru over the past 24 hours.

Also, the Iraqi artillery was silenced and the enemy sustained more blows when the Tovaileh-Suskan logistical route was subjected to the accurate fire of the Iranians which halted all movements of

the aggressor forces during this same time.

In another development Monday, 12 Iraqi militarymen were killed as revolutionary Iraqis attacked a Zil vehicle of Saddam's forces on the Karkuk-Soleimaniyeh route of Iraq.

Meanwhile, the anti-aircraft fire of the Islamic defenders repulsed some Iraqi fighter planes which attempted to bomb Ilam's residential areas during Monday and Tuesday. All these aircraft were forced to flee without carrying out any mission.

Reports from Ahvaz said that, ten Iraqi soldiers were killed and 8 others were wounded over the 24 hours preceding Tuesday when the Revolutionary Guards of Abadan, returning the enemy fire, stormed one rallying place of the Iraqi Ba'thist officers on the Arvand River's western bank, inside Iraq.

The Islamic combatants also halted the enemy activity on the Faw-Basra route, in the Sibeh region of Iraq. In these operations, the Iranian Forces destroyed one enemy rallying building, 1 RPG-7 position with its occupants, 2 watch posts, 1 anti-aircraft gun, one

106 MM gun and one 82 MM mortar launcher as well as killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers.

In another development Monday night, the Islamic defenders prevented the Iraqi troops from planting more mines in the region facing the Zaid Outpost by their heavy artillery fire. After suffering heavy defeats and losing massive armored forces during the Ramadhan Operation in this region, the enemy forces have been involved with defensive activities in order to halt any surprise attack by the Iranian Forces. All such operations have been checked by the Iranian troops and more blows have been inflicted upon the Iraqis every time.

Meanwhile, the aggressor Iraqi planes, which violated Abadan's air space trying to bomb the city's residential places several times Tuesday were forced to flee by the Iranian air defense units.

Reports from the Iraqi Ba'athist forces fired on the residential areas of Abadan, southern Iran using their long range artillery Tuesday.

This savage action of Saddam's forces martyred 2 civilians and wounded 7.

IRAQI POWS SHUN RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVES

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Jul-2 Aug 82 p 2

[Text]

TEHRAN (IRNA) — The Iraqi PoWs, stationed in Heshmatiyeh base in Tehran, did not let the visiting International Red Cross representatives to enter the camp, and chanted slogans against Saddam, the U.S. and the Iraqi Ba'athist regime.

An Iraqi PoW representative, wished to remain anonymous, said that they were aware of the activities of the IRC, therefore they did not let them enter the camp.

He questioned the International Red Cross why they did not visit Saddam's notorious prisons, or why they did not go to Lebanon or Afghanistan where the Soviet Union massacred Muslims. He asked whether these representatives were informed of Saddam's planes bombing residential areas in Iran everyday killing women and children. He called for the substitution of IRC mission with an Islamic delegation.

It should be noted that the IRC is the only news for the connection of PoWs with their relatives.

In March 1982, Iranian officials submitted a proposal to the International Red Cross representative in Iran concerning the families visits to Iraqi and Iranian PoWs. Also Iran proposed Turkey and Kuwait to be the place for the exchange of PoW families, but never received a response for its humanitarian measure from the Iraqi side.

CSO: 4600/711

SUNNI, SHI'A CONCEPTS OF LEADERSHIP COMPARED

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 3 Aug 82 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

Yesterday we discussed a major colonial ploy aimed at causing disunity among the Muslims, through inculcating the false idea that the Sunni school of thought includes compromise and silence. Through various examples and reasoning this point was clarified. Today we will attend to the matter of leadership and hierarchy in the context of Shia-Sunni difference.

Today in the Islamic ummah, a light is shining whose brilliance has astonished everyone. Today, the leadership of Imam Khomeini is an evident issue for both Shi'a and Sunni Muslims and for all the oppressed people of the world. Not only the political but even the religious and theological leadership of the Imam has been accepted and referred to as fact by many outstanding Sunni Ulema. But, still the basis of the issue of leadership has remained almost unsolved.

*Among the Sunni's in the existing Islamic parties, it has been a tradition that an outstanding person from the nation or party is chosen as the leader and then it is believed that in case he attains power, he ought to seek *bei'at* (swearing of allegiance to the Imam or caliph) from the ummah. If the people give *bei'at* to him, he will be the leader of the ummah.*

*After the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran the very Hizbul Tahir which we referred to yesterday, wanted Imam Khomeini, through a statement, to ask *bei'at* from the people and warned the Imam that the government would not be Islamic and legitimate otherwise!!*

They did not realize that the Imam's leadership is a divine blessing for the Iranian people and that the people would not hesitate to accept it. Later, when their demand was not realized, they showed their true nature and opposed the sovereignty of Islam and the Islamic Republic.

*The idea of leadership among the Shi'i is different. The issues of imamat, leadership and *velayat-e faqih* are quite pronounced. The matter of leadership among the Shi'i is divine and at the same time popular, elective and simultaneously appointive. It emerges in a self-generating and natural manner.*

Basically, the system of *ijtehad* (jurisprudential legal reasoning) and *taglid* (following a religious leader) and the system of the Shi'i theological centers, is something which should be carefully studied. Before examining the political, legal and practical aspects of this system, the cultural atmosphere of the theological centers should be scrutinized.

The noble and pure atmosphere of these centers has not been affected by western cultures. Their independence and the freedom that exists in choosing classes, lessons and professors, and the attitude of endeavoring without expectation which exists among their students is noteworthy. The pure intention of working merely for the sake of Allah, enduring poverty with the sense of contentment which exists among the students is a key to Islamic personality building. The atmosphere, schools, and sacred shrines which are usually near the theological schools reinforce the students overall commitment.

With so much genuineness, cultural, political and economic independence, and their absolute unaffectedness vis-a-vis today's culture, "human" civilization, mechanized life, political ploys and economic intricacies, and with their aloofness from luxury and their loyalty to simple and popular living, the Shi'i theological centers naturally bring up and educate humans who enjoy special characteristics. The scholars who have reached high levels of knowledge due to their own endeavors, who are popular, self-made and creative, enjoy piety and seek justice.

We should also study the legal issues and the practical methods of the Shi'i theological centers. We should see: "What is their learning process? What is *ijtehad*? How is the *ijtehad* of a person approved or in other words what person can be given the permission to make *ijtehad*? In which field? What persons come up traditionally and which persons and when can they publish a *Resala* (a book of judgements by a religious authority) and become *marja'* (a high ranking religious authority in Shi'a Islam)?

After all these questions we come to the issue of leadership and its legal aspects. Then comes the point in an Islamic society and from the viewpoint of the Islamic constitutional law as to which person and by what method is the leader chosen?

The Shi'i theological schools with the atmosphere which was delineated, automatically present competent humans to the society for leadership. Such persons are approved by the outstanding *ulema* who are trusted by the *ummah* and at the same time through their sincere efforts in the society, their capability and efficiency are proved for the people. In this natural manner, divorced from the western artificial systems, they are chosen by the people. Certainly such persons are the most competent ones and meet all requirements.

Among the Sunni's the mechanism of choosing the leader is a little different. But at the same time both schools agree that the most competent one who meets all Islamic requirements should be chosen. In the opinion of the Shi'i such a person is a *faqih* who has attained *velayat* and is the representative of God, the

successor to the Prophet (S.A.) and the deputy to Imam Mahdi (A.S.) Among our Sunni brothers, such a person is a religious scholar who takes charge of the caliphate and is God's representative and successor to the Prophet (S.A.).

We should solve the issue of leadership completely in order not to face difficulties in the future. It is appropriate for the Sunni brothers to study the process of choosing the leader among their Shi'i brothers and find a way to lead them closer to velayat-e faqih. And if there are still some persons who have not accepted the Imam's leadership, they had better not hesitate anymore, for history, the course of Islamic struggles and the Islamic ummah shall choose this way.

And the last word is this: the only way to victory is unity both in belief and in jihad. Still there are persons among the Iraqi Shi'i brothers who consider unity with Sunnis greatly unlikely and as long as this thinking continues things will advance with difficulty. Some of them say the Iraqi Sunnis assist Saddam. This is a wrong and dangerous conception, and occasionally these brothers fall in the trap of the very persons and powers who are the biggest enemies of the Shi'i and Islam. Whether they know or not, they are the executors of the sinister aims of the Taif conference.

Unity is essential and the greater necessity is that we should believe in unity before practicing it. We should understand that we are brothers, that the basis of existence is established upon unity and that Islam is nothing other than unity. We should know that unity can be reached naturally and not in an imposed and compulsory manner, which in fact is not unity at all.

The path of unity should be taken. There are many grounds for unity. May God return the kidnapped leader of the Lebanese Shi'i Muslims, Imam Musa Sadr who endeavored hard for the cause of unity. He talked extensively with the Mufti of the Sunnis in Lebanon, Sheikh Hassan Khalid so that the Sunni brothers would include "Hayya Ala Khayril Amal" (Rush towards the best deed) in their adhan (call for prayer) while the Shi'i exclude "Ashhadu Anna Alian Waliullah" (I witness that Ali (A.S.) is Allah's close servant) which is a supererogatory sentence said in adhan by the Shi'i Muslims.

Initially he agreed to the logic of Imam Sadr, but later, since he was dependent on the Saudi court and was ordered by his masters not to accept it he rejected this unity-creating proposal of Imam Sadr's.

May God uproot the dependent preachers, Insha Allah.

ARGUMENTS PRESENTED TO HEAL SHI'A-SUNNI RIFT

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 2 Aug 82 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

It should be said that the issue of Shi'a and Sunni has not yet ended. If there is some difference or problem, it is in our inner selves. As long as our hearts do not accept unity, the problem will not be solved.

This topic has of course been fertile ground for the enemies of Islam. The enemy first researches our weak points and then creates conditions for their growth, with an eye to exploiting our disability. All colonialistic plans have been carried out in this way. We create the favorable atmosphere for the enemy.

For example, there exists a description of the Sunni-Shi'a issue which is being heard now. Although this manner of approaching the Shi'a-Sunni issue includes some facts, nevertheless it is a colonialistic ploy and point of penetration for the enemy in order to impede a part of the Muslim world from moving.

It is said that Shi'a is a revolutionary school of thought and has constantly fomented revolutions and rebelled against the rulers in the course of history and that the Shi'i have always been the opposition party for God's religion. A psycho-historical analysis is also added to this matter describing what happened to Imam Ali (A.S.) and how our Imams always opposed the Umayyad and Bani Abbasid caliphs and how Imam Ali's (A.S.) followers escaped from the regions controlled by the Abbasids and sought refuge in the mountains of Iran. Many of the Shi'i customs are analyzed on this very basis.

This approach to the Shi'i school is correct but the conclusion which is derived is wrong and even calamitous for the Muslims, Islam and its future and for the Islamic liberation movements. The followers of this idea say that unlike the Shi'a, the Sunni is not a revolutionary school of thought, does not initiate movement and has always been in a ruling position in the course of history. Additionally it is said that Sunni ulema have earned their living in tandem with the rulers, and through their government.

The natural result of this understanding is to opine that the Shi'i are revolutionary due to their school of thought and the Sunnis cannot be revolutionary for the same reason. If this wrongheaded conception becomes vogue, the majority of the Islamic ummah, which is Sunni, will be discouraged from struggle and jihad.

Firstly, it is not true that only the Shi'i are revolutionary and Sunnis are not. Many examples can be found in history showing that some Shi'i have been counterrevolutionary, the mercenaries of ruling regimes and the praisers of rulers and sultans. What is clear is neither these have been the true Shi'i (followers) of Imam Ali (A.S.) and Mohammad (S.A.), nor those Sunnis the genuine followers of Mohammad's (S.A.) sunnah. But many Sunnis have been revolutionary. In Iraq, there have been some Sunni revolutionaries who have moved beside the Shi'a struggles and even ahead of them. May the memory of the martyred Sheikh Abdul Aziz Badri, the Sunni religious leader, be honorably remembered in this regard.

In addition to this, what people fought against colonialism for two centuries in Algeria? And from which sect or school of thought were the one million martyred Algerians and what persons issued the order of Jihad in that country?

From what school were Sheikhul Mujahideen Omar ul Mokhtar who battled bravely in Libya against Italian colonialism and Ma'ul Einain, the Moroccan religious scholar who fought against the Spanish colonizers? Which religion did Sheikh Mohammad Abdo who, along with Sayyed Jamal Assadabadi, projected the sublimest example of Islamic unity and the highest manifestation of the revolutionary manner of a Muslim, follow and what schools scholar and leader was he?

In Iran, the revolutionary and aware Sunni ulema, together with their Shi'i brothers, sacrifice their lives in Kurdistan, Baluchestan and Gonbad-e Kavos. In Friday prayers, at mosques, in serving the people, in the battlefronts, before the bullets of Munafiqeen, the mercenaries of the east and west, and in martyrdom the Sunni and Shi'i Muslims have illustrated the brightest manifestation of unity. The Sunni brothers proved that their school, which has emanated from the nobility of Islam is red and revolutionary like the true Shi'a. It has been the distorted and metamorphosed schools of thought that have been propagated by the colonizers and that have compromised with despotic powers in the course of history.

The Sunnis have been pioneering in some cases. Concerning organization, although the Shi'i ulema and their theological centers comprise a huge and unparalleled conglomerate, whose efficiency and importance has not yet been understood, nevertheless the Sunni Muslims have led in contemporary political organization. The Shi'i Muslims did not have any organization till a few years ago in Lebanon, on the eastern and northern coasts of Arabia and in the Persian Gulf states. In Turkey, the Shi'i live apart from other people and say that they are apolitical. Of course this is due to their hard living conditions and the tyranny and crimes which have been committed against them in the course of history.

The Shi'i of India, Pakistan, Kashmir and Afghanistan, too, have had a similar experience except for the recent years in Afghanistan when the Shi'i Muslims had to be organized there due to the necessity of struggling against the Red Army.

In Iran, the cradle of the Shi'a, a Shi'i organization in the real Islamic sense, commenced only from the time of Navvab Safavi and the Feda'iyeen of Islam.

In Iraq, too, it can be said that the Shi'i have established Islamic organizations only since 1958 when the Muslim Youth Association was founded or later when Jama'atul Ulema was formed.

On the other hand, the Ikhwanul Muslimoon movement was founded by Hassan ul Banna in 1929 among the Sunni Muslims. Hizbul Tahrir, too, which was formed by Taghiud Din Nabhani, a Jordanian Sunni, has a long history. There used to be a time in Iraq when the Shi'i had to become members of Hizbul Tahrir and Ikhwanul Muslimoon due to the absence of an Islamic party. There are still persons from the vanguard of the Islamic Da'awa Party (which is a Shi'ite party) who previously were members of Hizbul Tahrir.

Of course the point should be made that the parties and organizations which were named with all their branches, wings and their long history, are not necessarily approved by us — But, it can be said that the motive for establishing all of them has been Islamic, though many objections can be raised as to their conceptions and policies from the viewpoint of contemporary Islam.

The Shi'i ulema have been characterized by independence from governments and rulers even in the time of Shi'i rulers. We do not deny that the economic independence of the Shi'i theological centers, khoms and the financial power of the theological centers have been very important and effective. We do not reject the Islamic and revolutionary nobility of the Shi'i.

In addition, we know that the Sunni ulema, chiefly due to financial reasons, have been dependent on ruling regimes and receiving salaries from various governments. In many places, their theological centers have turned into official organizations of the government. This situation exists today in Egypt's Al-Azhar, in Saudi Arabia, in Iraq and in many other places. Some Sunni brothers have misinterpreted the Quranic verse saying "Obey Allah and the Prophet and the guardians of affairs from among you," as meaning the rulers, whoever they be, are "the guardians of affairs". This interpretation has affected the history of Sunni Muslims and their struggle. But all these matters of deviation have no absolute application, either for the Shi'is or concerning the Sunnis.

Today, fighting against the enemy is a necessity for our life and survival. Islam is in danger, thus both Shi'a and Sunni Muslims should rise against its enemies. The enemy has risen against Islam and not Shi'a or Sunni alone. Even if we suppose that the Sunnis have not been revolutionary and have rarely revolted against the ruling regimes — which is not so — nonetheless, they should begin large scale Islamic movements immediately.

Today, inculcating this wrong thinking that the Sunni school of thought includes compromise and silence must not have any place in our society and none of us should bring it up. The same holds true for whatever wrong notions any of our Sunni brethren may hold. The Shia-Sunni "difference" is a colonial plot.

Allowing our enemies to take advantage of this must be prevented.

CSO: 4600/707

MULLAHS KEEP UP ATTACKS ON POPE

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 81, 22 Jul 82 pp 4-5

[Text] Iran's theocrats and their underlings continued last week to bring Pope John Paul and the Vatican under heavy fire. In a pre-agenda speech in the Majlis a deputy from Urumiah (Rezaieh) Mullah Akbar Gharabagh, accused the Pope of "hypocrisy and double standards."

"The innocent Muslims of Lebanon are being murdered by the thousands and yet the Christian world remains silent," Gharabagh said. "This Mr Pope, who dispatched several emissaries to Iran to plead for the release of the dirty American spies, now remains silent while Christians and Jews in the pay of America are killing Muslims," he said.

He also said the expulsion of hezbollahi students from West Germany was a dirty plot hatched by the Catholic church. Ironically, Rezaieh, which is represented in the Islamic Majlis by Gharabagh, is one of the main centers of Iran's Christian communities, among them many Catholics. There is a bustling Roman Catholic church there. Gharabagh's attacks on the Pope will certainly anger his Christian constituents.

In another development, Hojjatleslam Mohsen Ghara'ati, Khomeyni's representative at the Ministry of Education, said during a sermon that Christians, especially those who belonged to foreign-based centres in Rome, must never be allowed to work as teachers.

"The Shah nor Bakhtiar would never object to non-Muslim teachers teaching our children because they do not believe in the faith," Ghara'ati said. "But we cannot and will not allow such a thing. Islam rules that you must never let nonbelievers teach your children. So I say nobody who is Christian or a nonbeliever should be employed as a teacher and those who were employed by the Shah or by Bakhtiar must be thrown out of our schools and given other jobs," he said.

Another mullah who joined the chorus attacking the Pope and Christians was the Friday prayer leader of Tabriz, who warned the city's large Christian community that their women were legally required to observe Islamic customs on how to dress in public. He said that "Mr Pope" might like to look on women dressed in body-revealing garments, but Islam forbade it.

These attacks on the Pope and Christians followed a vicious broadside against the Vatican by the Tehran deputy Fakhreddin Hejazi in KAYHAN (See IPS No 79).

Such attacks are bound to create apprehension among Iran's Christian communities, especially the many Armenians who work as artisans or craftsmen. Many have already left Iran since the revolution.

The Holy See has an embassy in Tehran but for many months the legation has been left without a chief of mission. It was reported in Tehran that the accredited envoy, Hannibal Bugnini, had died in a Rome hospital and that the Vatican had not yet appointed his successor.

The mullahs have appointed a favourite of Khomeyni, Ayatollah Hadi Khosrowshahi, as their envoy to the Vatican. He is a middle-aged mullah who has seniority over the mullahs' other envoys in Europe. Defecting diplomats have said that Khosrowshahi supervises not only Iran's embassies in Europe but also their clandestine operations as well as the regime's propaganda efforts.

Some observers point to recent activities of a group of young priests in Germany and Denmark in condemnation of Iran's mullahs for repression of non-Muslims as one possible reason behind the sudden attack on the Pope. However, criticism of Khomeyni's bad record on human rights has also come from non-Catholic priests so the Pope cannot be blamed.

CSO: 4600/699

EXILES WAKE UP TO NEED TO INFORM WEST

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 81, 22 Jul 82 pp 6-8

[Text] Welcome signs that the Iranian opposition movements in exile are beginning to realise that one reason why they do not enjoy more Western support is the fact they haven't bothered to put over their case are provided by the arrival on the streets of new publications in English

The Mojahedin-e-Khalq set the trend several months ago, and Ali Amini's National Salvation Front followed by launching its own periodical FRONTIER. Now Shahpour Bakhtiar's National Movement of the Iranian Resistance (NAMIR) has produced a monthly VOICE OF IRAN in which it hopes to put over a clearer picture of its own aims and of the true situation in Iran.

If one could have hoped for a more purely journalistic approach to its job and more frequent publication as a demonstration of real enthusiasm for its role (8 small pages a month hardly requires more than a few hours to compile) the NAMIR journal does take time out to set the scene methodically and rationally for its readers.

Part of an article entitled "What the Future Holds--A Rational Appraisal" is reprinted here, for it encapsules something of the reality of the situation of the country and its political groupings at home and abroad.

"Despite much success in the past three years, there is no question that the Iranian authorities have not been successful in fully asserting themselves. Daily outbreaks of violence in the cities, continuing war in Kurdistan, and generally speaking the central government's lack of proper authority outside Tehran, with a resultant breakdown of law and order, bear testimony to this. The same deterioration has also plagued the once prosperous Iranian economy; with five million unemployed, virtually no foreign currency reserves, an expensive war to finance, and the prospects of lower oil incomes despite heavy commitments to import large quantities of various goods each year.

"The single most important factor that has kept the country going despite its economic and political problems has been none other than the determined leadership of Ayatollah Khomeini and his Machiavellian sense of survival. His personality shaped the creation of the Islamic Republic and has since kept it afloat. As a politician, his success is owed to the fact that he has repeatedly shown his complete determination to pay the price of retaining power, even when

that price has been excessive beyond all reasonable proportions. Today, nevertheless, the degree of erosion which his popularity has suffered in the past three years is quite evident. As the sole and undisputed leader of a grand coalition that toppled the King of Kings, Khomeyni is today representative of only a small faction of that grand coalition. Today almost all secular political forces within Iran, whether democratic or undemocratic or whether left or right, with the exception of Iran's Tudeh (Communist) party, have in one way or another abandoned Khomeyni.

"Even within his own clerical constituency, dissent from what is popularly known in Iran as the Imam's line has become apparent. And finally, the only other major possible factor in the political scene, namely the decapitated armed forces, have been and continue to be engaged in a major confrontation, a safe distance away from Tehran. In its place, particularly in Tehran, are Khomeyni's mercenaries, who go by the name of Revolutionary Guards. Backed by his mercenaries and with the support of his raw instincts, Khomeyni has defeated insurmountable odds by having so far retained power. But his own age, sickness and impending death are matters that cannot easily be intimidated or terrorised.

"Thus, with his blessing, leaders of Iran's ruling constituency, as recently announced by the Islamic President Khamene'i, have set themselves on the course of organising a Council that would begin assuming the duties currently entrusted to Khomeyni under the Islamic Constitution. Apart from the Iranian President, the Council consists of Ayatollah Montazeri, Khomeyni's heir designate at the beginning of the revolution, whose uninspiring personality has been a major blow to Khomeyni's calculations, and Ayatollah Golpayeaghani, a respected religious leader who, in the past three years, allowed himself to be guided more by events than by conviction. The creation of this so-called Troika is seen by the Islamic authorities as the best way to assure continuity following Khomeyni's departure from the political scene.

"However, this plan and those selected to the Troika are far from being considered acceptable, even by the clerical constituency.

"The Mullah constituency is now essentially divided into three camps. The first, headed by fundamentalist President Khamene'i and his brother, Prime Minister Mousavi, with rumoured past affiliations with Iran's Tudeh Party, are said to favour closer ties with the Soviet Union and its satellites. Another faction, while staunchly supportive of Khomeyni's doctrine of 'Islamic government,' believes in a more pro-Western approach to Iran's foreign policy. This faction is headed by Hojat-ol-Eslam Rafsanjani the speaker of the Islamic Parliament. A third faction, led by the now disgraced Grand Ayatollah Shariatmadari and other leading Ayatollahs Qomi and Shirazi, are said to favour less clerical involvement in the administration of the state, believing more that the clergy must protect their long-term interest and status by not involving themselves in matters that are bound to reduce their public credibility.

"This faction is of the opinion that as an Islamic country, Iran is a natural constituency of support for the democratic states of the West. However, they are of the opinion that Iran's best interests can only be served when the Government adopts a truly nonaligned posture based on respect for democratic

traditions and values. Though Grand Ayatollah Shariat-madari was the first to condemn Soviet acts of aggression in Afghanistan, the faction as a whole is not in favour of pursuing provocative policies towards the Soviet Union. Another radical religious group, the Hojatieh, that takes credit for having initially influenced the Islamic Republic's campaign against the Bahais and which advocates a more fundamentalist interpretation of Islam than Khomeyni, has recently surfaced in Iran and is believed to have a few of its leading members in the present Iranian cabinet (e.g. Minister of Islamic Guidance Moadikhah).

"Most observers believe that once Khomeyni is dead and gone, his handpicked Troika would follow the path of the Regency Council which the Shah designated prior to his departure from Iran in January of 1979. Furthermore, it is likely that, as the competing forces within the clerical ranks begin the quest for power, each will take their share of the Revolutionary Guards to back their claims. In the event of such a scenario, the regime's present source of protection will cease to protect Khomeyni's heirs and the battle for power would become wide open and no longer be confined to the clerics.

"There is no doubt in the minds of political analysts that an impending crisis with serious consequences for the region and world peace is likely to occur after Khomeyni's death.

"Apart from the unpopular Tudeh party (supported and financed directly by the Soviet Union in Iran) which has so far played along with Khomeyni, Iran's secular political forces can be divided into two major groups: one led by former president Bani-Sadr and Mojahedin guerrilla leader Rajavi represents radical socialist viewpoints, and closer alignment with, if not subservience to the Soviet Union. The other major faction, the National Movement of the Iranian Resistance (NAMIR) led by Shahpour Bakhtiar, represents a coalition that includes social democrats and constitutionalists.

"There are a number of other small factions of moderate persuasion, such as those led by Ali Amini, a former reformist Prime Minister who served in the early 1960's, and Rear Admiral Ahmad Madani who, with Hassan Nazih, represent the liberal exiled breakaways of the Khomeyni regime. Some monarchists, representing the cause of Reza Pahlavi, the former Crown Prince of Iran, are keen to see a restoration of monarchy in the interest of maintaining Iran's territorial integrity under the umbrella of a king who would serve as a symbol of unity to the country's multi-language, multi-ethnic population. However, their platform, apart from their unswerving dedication to their symbol, whom they insist should not be involved in the day-to-day affairs of the State, contains no other provision and the majority of their supporters are believed to favour the creation of a government headed by Dr Bakhtiar. Most analysts believe that in the final analysis, at the time of a final showdown, most, if not all, of the moderates will back the leadership of NAMIR.

"Contrary to Bani-Sadr and Rajavi, who have presented a detailed account of how they intend to govern their 'Democratic Islamic Republic' of Iran with all its euphemistic jargon, NAMIR is organised only to liberate Iran from its present plight so that Iranians, themselves, can choose their own form of government. Vis-a-vis the actual form of the state (i.e. republic or monarchy) NAMIR has officially advocated the election of a constituent assembly that would be entrusted with the task of drafting a new constitution and deciding the future form of the country."

NATION'S DEFEAT NOT SEEN AS DEFINITIVE SETBACK YET

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 81, 22 Jul 82 pp 1-2

[Text] What will Ayatollah Khomeyni do next? That was the question on the lips of friends, foes and detached observers alike as it became clear this week that the initial Iranian offensive against Iraq's crucial oil port of Basra had failed with considerable loss of life.

Some men, it was felt, might draw a lesson from the defeat and think how to cut their losses; but not Khomeyni, was the unanimous view. With the treacherous ground in the south, and flooding of parts of the area by the Iraqis making conditions worse, a new offensive further north was being tipped as the most likely next move by Tehran.

Though Khomeyni may have been nonplussed by the failure of his fanatical hordes to overrun the supposedly demoralised Iraqis his aides have no doubt already persuaded him that the Americans and other satanic enemies of Islam were secretly helping the Iraqis in the battle. But the ayatollah's faith in his own concept of Islam is so strong that he must have already convinced himself that Allah will see him all right next time, say Iranian analysts. Karbala, Allah has ordained, must be in Khomeyni's charge.

Although the obvious lies told by both sides for so long have made outside observers skeptical about the claims put out by Baghdad or Tehran in their war communiques, most seemed agreed that the circumstances and subsequent events suggest Iran must have suffered pretty horrendous human losses. They were often bogged down in the marshy, completely exposed countryside, reports say, and the Iraqis, fully prepared for the assault, were able to exact a big toll. Baghdad claims of 10,000 Iranians killed, however, were generally regarded as exaggerations.

But the mere fact that the Iraqis were able to take foreign correspondents to tour part of the battle field suggests, close observers of the war say, that they felt their victory was significant enough to show it to the world. One reporter counted 300 bodies of Iranians within a small area through which he was driven.

But Iranian troops were still on Iraqi soil in this southern area by midweek, so the Iraqis could not claim a complete victory. Minor action further north has already been reported; but sources said the main Iranian force was still gathered near Basra.

As the more militant mullahs and Tehran radio continued to blast out their propaganda that "America and Israel are afraid of Iran's onslaught," there were signs in the Iranian capital that some people have misgivings. A government spokesman was pressed earlier in the week over reports that some members of the government were talking of resigning.

The spokesman admitted only that some members of the cabinet had been wanting to give up their jobs because they had other personal interests which they wished to concentrate on. This reply only served to intensify the rumours that the government was divided over the latest action in the war.

And some observers said this could only have been sparked off by a genuine fear of adverse public reaction to the continuing heavy toll of lives and the effect on the economic life of the country. Until now adept circulation of money among the formerly less well-off sections of the population has helped to blunt the effects of the war and economic paralysis; but sources say a strong reaction seemed to set in when the country felt the war had reached a successful conclusion after the retaking of Khorramshahr and the withdrawal of Iraqi forces, and any setback for the Iranian forces now could have disastrous consequences on opinion at home.

The fact that there is some uncertainty among officials is also reflected by the reduction in the amount of detailed information on the war now being given by the state-run radio and television. Most of the radio broadcasts have become commentaries and the hostilities are reported at a muted level and largely in generalities.

Another reflection of nervousness was the quick explanation given to Kuwaiti officials by Iran's ambassador in that country, Ali Shams Ardakani, of the meaning of Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani's warning to the Persian Gulf states not to send help to Iraq or face consequences. Ardakani explained that the speaker was only asking those countries not to help in a war against a leader in Saddam Hussein who was their enemy as well as Iran's, not intending any threat.

The Moscow-backed Tudeh party in Iran has let it be known it feels the continuation of the war is against the interests of both Iran and Iraq, a reflection of the Soviet view. This should not hide the slightly more positive approach to Iran's side of the disputes by Moscow in recent weeks, observers say.

As if aware that the world might spot Soviet favoritism for them, the mullahs this week announced they were suspending publication of Tudeh's newspaper, which anyway seems to have been in a state of suspended animation for many months, and the arrest of a Tudeh activist at a Mojahedin guerrilla's hide-out. This was seen as a precautionary action for public consumption by most observers.

CSO: 4600/699

IRAN

'HYPOCRITES' TORTURE, KILL THREE

LD151754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Announcement issued by the public relations office of the Central Province Islamic revolution prosecutor's office--date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the crusher of the tyrants and hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq]. Once again the criminal hand of the East and the West has emerged from the sleeves of the hypocrites, those godless world-worshippers. They have proved to be a credit, by a horrendous crime, to Genghis, Hitler, Johnson, Stalin and Mussolini. They kidnapped three of the best sons of the community of members of the party of God right in front of their loves ones. Then, having inflicted various kinds of tortures on them, they burned their unblemished bodies by various means in the worst way possible. They ripped off the skin of various parts of their heads and faces, gouged out one of the eyes of one of the brothers, and, having lost hope of obtaining any information from them, as well as realizing the firm determination of the party of God against international arrogance and its domestic lackeys, martyred one of the brothers and, according to the unequivocal confession of one of the criminals involved in the tragedy who is now trapped in the claws of Islamic justice, after inflicting medieval tortures upon two others, buried them half alive in ditches in [name indistinct] desert at night.

After the necessary investigation of the person accused of this crime at the central province Islamic revolution prosecutor's office, the burial place of these dear ones was discovered. After religious rites and legal procedures were conducted, their unblemished bodies were transferred to the Islamic revolution prosecutor's office to be handed over to their esteemed families.

The funeral procession for the unblemished bodies of these dear ones will start at 0900 tomorrow, 16 August, from the Islamic Revolution Committee Central Headquarters. The procession will go to the Islamic Revolution Martyrs' Cemetery.

Greetings to the souls of all martyrs. Salutations to the imam of the community. Death to America.

[Signed] The Public Relations Office of the Central Province Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office

CSO: 4640/445

IRANIANS AT HOME REMAIN CYNICAL, PESSIMISTIC

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 81, 22 Jul 82 pp 2-4

[Text] Middle-class Iranians who have suffered most under the Khomeyni regime seem to have taken the regime's latest escapade, the move into Iraqi territory, in their stride. Few people were surprised to hear of the attack; still fewer people expressed any hopes that a speedy victory for Iran could bring about any basic changes in their lives.

"I am sorry for people getting killed and those losing their homes," a woman lawyer in Tehran said. "But let us be realistic; even if there is peace with Iraq, the snake of Jomoran (Khomeyni) will look for other excuses to pick a fight with other people. It is in the natures of snakes and scorpions to sting other creatures."

She doubted whether Khomeyni and his bunch could provide a better life for Iranians under peacetime conditions. She said while the war goes on the mullahs continue purging the government offices and other vital institutions of experienced officials.

"As a woman lawyer I am surprisingly doing some work," she said. "But many of my male relatives, all specialists in their own field, are out of work. The mullahs do not seem to be interested in providing a decent living for people; all they say and do is to spread hatred and to look for an enemy to fight."

A bank official who is still at his job said the mullahs gave the impression that the economy would remain on a war footing for as long as they could foresee. "We knew that even if peace was made with Iraq the economy would stay in its present state," he said. "The regime is geared for a long war and it does not seem to care for the welfare of the people."

Another bank employee said the mullahs could always find an excuse to wage war. "If they found that the road to Lebanon did not go through Iraq, they would then try to find it through Kuwait, then through Pakistan and maybe through Istanbul," he said, adding: "The main aim is to keep on going towards Lebanon but never arriving."

Few people believe that the only way to save Lebanon or the Palestinians is to overthrow Iraq's Baathist regime, Tehranis say. It is curious, they say, how even the most fanatical young people who are giving their lives for

Khomeyni show an unflinching sense of cynicism about Khomeyni's justification for the war. One spoken to was frank about it: "Maybe it is an excuse, but we don't care because in Islam you must and can practice deception to win against your enemy; in Islam deception is authorized at war time."

More surprising is the support given by the anti-Khomeyni groups to the push in Iraq. Diehard nationalists praised the move as the first military victory by an Iranian army outside the country for two centuries.

"Not since Nader Shah's time have we scored such a military success," a pan-Iranist working with the gas industry said. He said the mighty Shah with his heavily-armed army never dared to go to war against Iraq while Khomeyni was doing so with his illequipped motley of troops, revolutionary guards and mullahs.

His support for Khomeyni's war may, however, be his way of trying to justify his continued employment at the gas company, as other Iranians point out. If you are not purged these days you are accused of being a hezbollahi. Despite government propaganda in praise of the hezbollahis, to most people the term represents stupid and fanatical youths. It is no compliment to call somebody a hezbollahi.

Another surprising phenomenon is the majority of Iranians' cynical attitude to the plight of the Arabs, whether Iraqis, Palestinians or Lebanese. Pictures of PLO leader Arafat beleaguered in West Beirut have delighted many Iranians. Many of them believe that Arafat's gunmen, disguised as Iranian Islamic activists, brought Khomeyni to power. Others are against him since his break with the mullahs last year.

Dezhban, an ultra-nationalist publication printed in London for exiles, rejoices at the news of the Palestinian guerrillas' plight, accusing Arafat of deliberately leading the PLO to certain destruction by not trying to come to an accord with Sadat. It contends that all Khomeyni's friends have had a sad fate. As to Saddam, it says though no friend of the mullahs "he is an Arab and has many things in common with them."

Responsible Iranian politicians, including two former premiers in Shahpour Bakhtiar and Ali Amini, have condemned the push into Iraq as unnecessary adventurism and a dangerous escalation of war. An exile Shiite leader, Ayatollah Mehdi Rouhani, has also condemned the move. Pan-Iranist Mohsen Pezeshkpour, while condemning Khomeyni's rule, had earlier called for the punishment of the Iraqi Baathist aggressors. He has also called for investigations to determine why Iran was unprepared when the Iraqis first attacked Iran.

Interesting, too, is the reaction of National Resistance Council leaders. Bani-Sadr, who as Khomeyni's chosen president and his commander-in-chief until June 1981 never had any real success on the battlefield, kept quiet. NRC colleagues Massoud Rajavi condemned the push on the third day of the attack.

Meanwhile, reaction at home and especially among previously apathetic people may well change from indifference to anger if the Iraqis continue exacting a heavy toll in civilian and no doubt in military lives. Since July 14, when Iranian forces pushed into Iraq, many defenceless cities have come under air

strikes. Unofficial reports put the death toll in an Iraqi air raid on Hamadan last Friday at over 200, though Tehran radio admitted only 73 dead.

Cynics may shrug off the death toll in Hamadan as being largely hezbollahis who had taken part in Friday prayers; but those civilians who died in Kermanshah and Khorramabad were certainly innocent people. But the question is whom should the angry people blame: Iraqi pilots? Saddam? Or Khomeyni and Montazeri?

For the sake of settling his personal fight with Saddam, it is now suspected, Khomeyni is leading Iran into a war for which the country is not ready. And Montazeri is put forward to orchestrate the war cry. Obviously both of them are blamed. So is Saddam, because he foolishly set out against Iran in a futile war which has worked out in Khomeyni's favour.

However, observers are beginning to ask how much more the Iranian public can go on suffering under Khomeyni and his bloody adventurism. Not only has he executed thousands, put many more in jail and driven millions out of their jobs and homes, but he is now responsible for bringing enormous misery by his stupid foreign policy. Can he get away with all this?

Informed opinion argues that while Saddam's invasion of Iran helped strengthen Khomeyni's position at home, quite possibly Khomeyni's venture into Iraq may strengthen Saddam. And finally, if Saddam does manage to push Khomeyni back then it will be Khomeyni's head which could roll. For the first time this possibility is being discussed in Tehran.

CSO: 4600/699

RECONSTRUCTION WORK STALLS FROM SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER, EQUIPMENT

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 81, 22 Jul 82 pp 5-6

[Text] Work on reconstruction of villages in Khuzestan has come to a halt because of a lack of trained manpower and vital equipment, reports from the area indicate.

At least two dozen loaders and bulldozers which were sent to Dasht-e-Azadegan for reconstruction work were requisitioned by the revolutionary guards prior to the attacks on Basra. Local people angrily watched as noisy guards took over the vehicles, stuck Khomeyni's pictures on them, and then drove away.

In another area the revolutionary guards, led by a young mullah, arrived in two vans, rounded up the menfolk and demanded to know their skills. They said they needed bricklayers, welders and drivers; but they left angrily, empty-handed.

In the Dezful area scores of young men have left their homes because they are afraid to be press-ganged into the construction corps. The Ahwaz local residents report that many skilled hands had left the city to avoid forcible transfer to the front line.

"This explains why nobody with skills is ready to move here for reconstruction work," one resident of Ahwaz said. "Many skilled workers have been taken from their work here to the front-lines and others fear the same fate awaits them."

The supervisor of the Khorassan Construction Crusade, who has been charged with the task of rebuilding 200 villages in Khuzestan, said in an interview with the Tehran daily ETTELA'AT that he needed hundreds of skilled workers and tons of equipment to go about his task. He indicated that there were no masons, drivers, welders or even well-diggers. He then appealed to skilled workers all over the country to register with his office in Mashad.

This interview is said to be an accurate indication of the difficulties the mullahs face in fulfilling their announced plans to rebuild the areas devastated by war. The problem has been aggravated by the fact that the mullahs are not prepared to pay ordinary wages to the workers; rather they demand they work free as a religious duty.

NEW PLANS BEING IMPLEMENTED FOR MODERNIZATION

Railroad System Expanded

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 3 Aug 82 p 2

[Text]

TEHRAN, Aug 3 (IRNA) — In the first three months of the current Iranian year (beginning March 21) some 1.66 million people had travelled by train and more than 1.86 million tons of goods were transported through the railroads, showing an increase of 130 percent respectively compared with the previous year.

In a news conference today the deputy technical chief of the railroads of the Islamic Republic, Mr. Abdulmajid Afzal, added that during last year 58 locomotives were in operation while this year the number had increased to 139. He asserted this was made possible after receiving spare parts from Yugoslavia which he also said had sold Iran 20 locomotives, 17 of which had been delivered so far. Mr. Afzal said that his office's other achievements during this year were the increase in the number of locomotives repaired.

He stated that prior to the Islamic Revolution some 50 to 60 locomotives were repaired each year, but he added this figure had risen to 81 last year.

The official added that the future plans of his office aimed at

connecting the country's important ports and border cities with industrial and agricultural centers. On top of these plans he cited the Bandar Abbas-Kerman line (900 kms), Kerman-Zahedan line (560 kms), and the addition of a second track to the present railway between Ahvaz and Imam Khomeini Port (110 kms).

This first plan, namely the Kerman-Bandar Abbas line, would go into operation in 1365 (1986-7) and its construction began last year. The second line would take four to five years to build and its construction may start next year, he said, adding that the third plan would soon go under construction.

Afzal told reporters that the Kerman-Zahedan project had considerable importance since it would connect with Pakistan's railroad, thus completing a connection from East Asia to Europe.

Concerning the progress on the reconstruction of the Ahvaz-Khorramshahr line, Afzal said that 1,400 personnel were working 10 to 12 hours a day to try to complete the work in 100 days, instead of the normal construction period of a year and a half.

Heavy Industries Reorganized

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 3 Aug 82 p 2

[Text]

TEHRAN, August 2 (IRNA)

— Many foreign-aligned capitalists when they fled the country left the companies and factories in a state of dependence on foreign sources. In general, Iran's dependent industry was a heritage of the former regime, said the minister of industries, Mostafa Hashemi on Sunday.

The minister in an exclusive interview with the Tehran evening daily Ettela'at, referring to the industrial system of the country said that with the flight of the private sector's managers it became necessary to form the ministry of mines and metals as a first step to cover mines and metal factories. The second measure was to centralize all companies connected with steel producing in the Iranian National Steel Company, and then the National Industries Organization was formed for organizing about 600 factories left by those who had fled the country.

In order to reorganize the structure of the industries of the country, the ministry of industries was formed to replace the former ministry of industries and mines.

Iran's high percentage of dependent industries said to be 80 percent and the low percentage of major industries said to be 12 to 13 percent moved the Iranian government to form a heavy industries ministry which could develop the major industries, and increase expertise in the country, he said.

Another advantage, he said, was that all the firms belonging to one industry could be supervised under one ministry. He said these were the reasons for establishing three ministries of "industries",

"heavy industries," and "mines and metal mills" for running and leading the existing industries in the country.

Referring to the formation of the industries Mr. Hashemi said that when the formation of the heavy industries ministry was approved, in order to coordinate the activities of the military industries and petrochemical industries with the three mentioned ministries, a project for creating an industries council consisting of these five groups plus the prime minister and also one or two other ministers was submitted to the Majlis. This council was empowered to cover all industries in the country.

Concerning the new organizations in the ministry the minister said that in the future the ministry would have seven undersecretary departments covering the electricity, electronics, textiles, wood and paper, cement and construction, light metal industries, pharmaceuticals and chemical industries, foodstuffs and sugar, handicrafts and rural industries. These would be under the supervision of the industries minister.

Concerning industrial management Mr. Hashemi said that after the revolution the flight of many managers had made the government turn to using young, devoted revolutionary forces but who had no experience.

This created problems which after four years had not ended yet. He added management before the revolution sought to turn the country to the east or west and served imperialist interests. No longer would this be so, he concluded.

BRIEFS

MARIVAN CLASH--Sanandaj--The Islamic Revolutionary Guards of Marivan announced yesterday that the combatants of Islam posted in Marivan District clashed with members of the Komeleh minigroup in the vicinity of the villages of (Kani) and (Qomchian). Two of the Komeleh mercenaries were killed, four were wounded and their base was severely damaged. [Text] [GF151818 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 5 Aug 82 p 2]

CRUSADE MEMBERS RELEASED--Urumiyeh--Three crusading brothers who were held hostage in the afternoon in the villages around Oshnoviyeh were released on the same day by fearless brother guards. In the skirmish that followed, one of the counterrevolutionaries was killed and another was captured by the forces of Islam. Confirming this report, the commander of the Oshnoviyeh Revolution Guards said: On the evening of the day before yesterday, three brother members of the reconstruction crusade, who had gone to the village of (Kani Kisal) on assignment, were taken hostage by members of a defunct party. On hearing this, the brother guards besieged the surrounding villages. After 2 hours the counterrevolutionaries were forced to flee and the hostages were released. A clash ensued between the combatants of Islam and the counterrevolutionaries, as a result of which, one counterrevolutionary was killed and his body was sent to Oshnoviyeh. [Text] [GF151816 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 5 Aug 82 p 2]

HYPOCRITE EXECUTION IN RASHT--Rasht--Two days ago a terrorist member of the hypocrite organization [Mojahedin-e Khalq] was executed in Rasht on the order of the city's Islamic Revolution Court which was approved by the Supreme Judicial Council. The Islamic revolution prosecutor's office in Rasht announced: Zahra Nikraftar, alias Akram, daughter of Reza, aged 23, high school graduate and citizen and resident of Rasht, who was in hiding since the start of the armed battle by the hypocrite minigroup and who participated in the majority of the meetings and clashes and communal houses, was arrested by the self-sacrificers of the Rasht revolution guards on 27 April. She announced her complete faith and support for the hypocrites and their satanic acts during interrogation, and having been sentenced to death 2 days ago, was executed in Basht. [Text] [GF151619 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 7 Aug 82 p 4]

IRAQI SPY, HYPOCRITES SENTENCED--Urumiyeh--Iraqi Tashviq, son of Asqar, has been sentenced to execution for cooperating with monarchists in a plot to overthrow the Islamic Republic. Esma'il Dastres, son of Mohammad, was sentenced to life imprisonment for spying for Iraq. Khadijeh Pirani, daughter of Sediq, was given a 15-year prison sentence for supporting the defunct Democratic Party; Saleh Nuri, son of Molla Hoseyn, was sentenced to 10 years in jail for cooperation with the defunct Democratic Party; Fakhroddin Rasuli, son of 'Abdollah Bahmin, was given a 3-year term for the same crime; M'asumeh Reza'i, daughter of Ahmad 'Ali, was given a 10-year sentence for supporting the hypocrites; Leylan Hoseynzadeh, daughter of Ebrahim, received a 15-year sentence for cooperation with the hypocrites; Zhila Mansuri, daughter of Ebrahi, received a 5-year sentence for supporting the Peykar minigroup; Roqiyeh Qabl'ali, daughter of Qabl'ali and 'Ali Moradi, son of Sadeq, each received 2-year sentences for supporting the Peykar minigroup; Tahereh Sharifpur, daughter of Yadollah, was given a 15-year sentence for supporting the hypocrites. Belqeys Sahituli, daughter of Teymur, was given a 15-year sentence for supporting the Peykar minigroup; Rashid Shateri Baqerzadeh, son of Asad, was given a 2-year sentence for supporting the Feda'iyān-e Khalq--minority group; Mostafa Maleki, son [of] Mohammad, a member of the hypocrites, received a 1-year sentence. According to the same report, 10 people were sentenced to terms ranging from 3 months to 1 year for illegally crossing the border. [Excerpts] [GF170442 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 7 Aug 82 p 4]

AZERBAIJAN CLASHES--Our correspondent reports that in the centers of the Kurdish region of western Azerbaijan heavy clashes have occurred between the Kurdish warriors and Khomeyni's revolution guards. The clashes have intensified since yesterday. The Kurdish armed warriors in their heavy attack have besieged guard posts and killed dozens of revolution guards. Our correspondent adds that today Radio Reza'iyeh interrupted regular programs several times and requested the people to report to hospitals in order to donate blood for wounded guards. [Text] [GF131248 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 12 Aug 82]

NONALIGNED SUMMIT PLAN--The North Korean ambassador to Iran met with Foreign Minister Velayati this morning. During this meeting, the ambassador submitted a letter to Mr Velayati from the DPRK foreign minister. They also discussed the expansion of political, economic and trade relations between the two countries and exchanged views on the nonaligned summit. The North Korean ambassador emphasized that it is necessary to hold the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference in Havana at the scheduled date in order to prevent division and weakening of the nonaligned movement. The foreign ministers will then make a decision about the venue and date of the nonaligned summit. Explaining why Baghdad is unsuitable as a venue for a nonaligned conference at any level, Mr Velayati said: We fully agree with the Cuban Government proposal to hold the nonaligned foreign ministers conference in Havana and we shall participate if it is held there. [Text] [LD141116 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Aug 82]

HYPOCRITE ACTIVITIES--At 0703 this morning, two members of the hypocrites organization [Mojahedin-E Khalq] armed with guns, tried to stop an NCO who was driving his motorcycle down a street in Tehran. Having met with stiff resistance, the two hypocrites opened fire on the NCO and fled on his motorcycle. The motorcycle then ran out of gas and two hypocrites forced another motorcyclist to stop. Having met with stiff resistance again, they fired two shots at his abdomen. This led to a gathering of local inhabitants who began to shout: "death to the hypocrites." The local people surrounded the hypocrites and began stoning them. One hypocrite took a cyanide tablet and the other hypocrite was killed by the stones. At this point Islamic committee guards arrived and took the two hypocrites to the hospital; the hypocrite who had taken the cyanide tablet was saved. [Text] [LD142016 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Aug 82]

GUARD RECRUITMENT--The Islamic Republic is short of volunteers for the war. As well as kidnapping people and sending some prisoners to the fronts, it invites people to sign up for killing their brothers [Iraqis] in communiques issued by the revolution guards. In addition to the war with Iraq, the revolution guards need more people for the war with Iranian Kurds. The attacks by government forces led by Sayyad-Shirazi against the villages and civilians of Kordestan are continuing. Bloody battles occur in Kordestan every day. [Text] [GF150845 (Clandestine) Seda-ye Iran Radio in Persian 1930 GMT 14 Aug 82]

ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT--Kuwait Radio today reported that two armed combatants attacked a very high-ranking commander of Khomeyni's army and cut his arm off. The (?assailants) were [words indistinct] killed. The report by Kuwait Radio states that one of the assailants was killed and the second wounded. The wounded fighter committed suicide by eating a cyanide pill. The radio carried this report, attributing it to Tehran Radio, and added: the Tehran regime has not revealed the name of this Iranian commander. The report also states that one arm of the commander was cut from shoulder during the attack. [Text] [GF151608 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 15 Aug 82]

SYRIAN ARRESTED IN ROME--According to our correspondent in Italy, a Syrian citizen was arrested at Rome airport yesterday while using an Iranian passport. Initial investigation by officials revealed 20 kg of explosives hidden in his suitcase. This Syrian citizen was carrying a passport issued by the Islamic Republic and also a false Saudi passport. Rome police have asked the press of the country not to publish the name of this terrorist until the end of their investigations. This will enable them to find and arrest the terrorist's accomplices. According to the Rome police spokesman, initial investigations have revealed that the terrorists intended to attack and bomb offices of countries opposing Khomeyni and al-Asad. [Text] [GF151611 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 15 Aug 82]

SHIRAZ MINIGROUP MEMBERS SENTENCED--Ten supporters of hypocrite, Peykaar and leftist minigroups received sentences of 2 to 6 years in jail. [GF152009 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 7 Aug 82 p 4 GF]

KAZERUN HYPOCRITES SENTENCED--The Kazerun Islamic Revolution Court has sentenced 13 offenders to 1 to 8 years in jail and 70 to 80 lashes. There were 6 drug dealers among the convicts and the rest were convicted of supporting hypocrites, the peykar minigroup and for being ruffians and drinking alcoholic beverages. [GF141926 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 14 Aug 82 GF]

CSO: 4640/445

LIBYA

PRODUCERS' CONFERENCE ISSUES RESOLUTIONS

Tripoli AL-MUNTIJUN in Arabic 3 Jul 82 p 3

[Article: "Minutes of the Professional Congress of Producers in Banks and Insurance: Emergency Meeting of 20 June 1982 To Discuss Report of Public People's Committee"]

[Text] The Professional Congress of Producers in Banks, Insurance and Financial Operations in the Municipality of Tripoli held an emergency meeting last Sunday at al-Jamahiriyah Theater in al-Zahrah to make the professional decisions that are deemed necessary regarding the economic report of the Public People's Committee to the principal people's congresses. The report deals with a reconsideration of national revenues and expenditures that would make alternative sources of revenue available, instead of depending on oil as the principal source for national revenue, particularly since our people are facing a dreadful economic battle against imperialist and reactionary forces who are amassing all their capabilities and using all their corrupt methods to fight us and impose an economic blockade around us in a desperate, vicious attempt to subjugate our free, revolutionary will, now that our people have become masters of their fate and a beacon to oppressed peoples. Oppressed people look to our people when they aspire to their final emancipation and liberation. They see in front of them the people of the great first of September controlling the scales of their destiny: government, wealth and weapons.

Opening Remarks and the Secretariat's Remarks

The congress began its business with a recitation of a few verses from the Koran. Then Brother al-Siba'i, secretary of the congress delivered the secretariat's statement. He welcomed those attending the congress and said that their attendance proved their true commitment to the revolution. He emphasized that those who were attending the congress were in fact the vital forces in our banks and in our financial sector. "Anyone who has not attended will have to accept the resolutions of the congress. We cite for the record those who are not attending the congress for being passive at a time when their colleagues are sacrificing their efforts and the sweat of their brow to complete the work and to serve the public interests that concern us all." The secretary of the congress expressed his deep regret about those who stayed away from the congress, preferring to relax and to pursue their own amusement at a time when we see our fellows being subjected to the worst methods of the treacherous Zionist, imperialist aggression

on the battlefield. The secretary of the congress affirmed that this emergency meeting was being convened to achieve a fruitful solidarity and [to enable] the producers in our sector who are carrying growing burdens to make the correct decision. The principal role in implementing a decision that would serve the national economy and realize our socialist goals falls on the shoulders of these people. Therefore, we are hoping that in the future everyone will take part in making professional decisions about matters which they are most knowledgeable about, so that no one else would make these decisions under the auspices of the people's power.

Reading the Report and Proposing the Congress Agenda

After the secretariat's statement was delivered, Brother Ahmad Muslim, the assistant secretary, read the text of the report to the conferees. The items on the agenda were discussed, [and the focus of that discussion was on] the points that are of interest to the professional congress. These were presented for discussion in the following manner:

1. The principle of saving and the proposed ratios.
2. Increasing work hours and overtime hours.
3. Reconsidering official and religious holidays.

A committee has been formed from members of the congress to formulate this resolution. Then the conferees began their discussions and exchange of opinions about the points of the agenda. In a free, democratic atmosphere, the floor was given to all the brothers who wanted to express their opinions. Many of those who participated in the discussion explained that the principle of saving money relies basically on providing and furnishing those who save with a feeling of confidence. This is the scientific and technical basis of that principle with which bank and insurance officials are concerned. It constitutes the core of their operations since the financial sector is the natural repository for savings which manifest themselves in bank deposits and various insurance documents. Besides, our sector is also concerned with directing and investing those savings to serve the objectives of the revolutionary, socialist society on the foundation of the Great First of September Revolution. Therefore it is vital and essential that segments of our sector take part in devising a practical, well-considered plan for citizens' savings. Regarding the item on increasing work hours and overtime hours, the conferees also indicated that working conditions in the banking and financial sectors were largely tied up with foreign labor and with foreign transactions. This results in differences in the volume of business, and this requires that each institution be allowed to determine its own overtime hours according to its own conditions. The necessary steps must also be taken so that the wheel of production may be pushed forward and production increased under existing work hours in the financial sector.

By compiling opinions, the committee formulated the following resolutions:

Item One: Regarding Savings

The conferees think that the principle of savings is to be approved. Only one

dinar [is to be deducted for savings], and that is to be increased with every step on the scale of jobs. The rate of interest earned on the amounts of money that are contributed to savings is to be abolished.

Item Two: Increasing Work Hours and Overtime Hours

The conferees think that increasing working hours is to be effected indirectly, and that this is to be brought about by increasing production during present working hours by [the following] means:

A. Reinstating those who were inducted into the armed forces to their positions in the financial and banking sector. This would help us do away with foreign workers, and it would bring about the participation of all Libyans in [the effort to] support the transformation plan.

B. Setting down general controls for the ideal utilization of existing working hours so that production can be increased in a positive and a concrete way.

C. Urging increased production and offering the best of services to the public.

D. Letting each institution set its overtime work hours according to its working conditions.

Item Three: Official and Religious Holidays

A. Official and religious holidays occurring on the weekly holiday are not to be made up by another day.

B. The reduction of official holidays is approved in principle, and the matter is to be left up to the Public People's Committee to issue an appropriate decision.

The Resolutions Committee read these resolutions to the congress, and the resolutions were approved unanimously.

8592

CSO: 4504/404

LIBYA

BRIEFS

ELECTRICITY NETWORK BUILT--Sources of the Electricity Secretariat stated that the purpose of the present electricity transformation plan is to join all the major power generating stations by means of a powerful network that would convey and distribute power and establish a uniform network that would tie together all areas of the republic. In addition, 3,315 kilometers of 220 KV power lines will be installed, and 42, 220 KV relay stations will be constructed. Medium and low voltage distribution networks 2,215 kilometers of 66 KV power lines will be installed. Thirty 66 KV distribution stations will also be constructed. The sources added that the purpose of the electricity transformation plan is also to set up power lines and electricity networks and build 60 distribution stations with 30 KV each and 1,600 distribution stations with 11 KV each. [Text] [Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 29 Jun 82 p 2] 8592

CSO: 4504/404

PRESS TOUR NOTED

Paris AFRICA AFP in English No 2918, 27 Jul 82 p 12

[Text] Rabat, July 26--Moroccan authorities yesterday organised a press visit to their "wall of sand" fortifications in the Western Sahara to show "the reality of the situation" in the light of "the numerous communiques" issued by the Polisario front recently, just before the Organisation of African Unity summit in Tripoli.

About 30 journalists were flown to Smara, the religious capital of the Western Sahara, where a Moroccan Colonel in command of the sector showed equipment which he said had been captured from the Polisario on July 22, when 2,000 guerrillas were surprised by Moroccan forces South of Smara and outside the sand wall protecting the region's vital areas.

The colonel said Moroccan troops were building a second wall further from Smara to protect the town from possible shelling. It was forces protecting this work who had surprised the guerrillas, he added.

The journalists were shown the fortifications in a 50-kilometre (30-mile) tour round Smara. At first sight they are unimpressive, consisting of a stone or sand embankment, 2.5 to three metres (eight to nine feet) high, with foxholes for troops.

Every four to five kilometres (two to three miles) there is a support point with buried guns and mobile forces in reserve. In front of the Wall is barbed wire and minefields, and a reliable source said radar equipment could pick up movement outside.

The press party was then taken by helicopter to Afrafir, between Bou Craa and Boujdour, which the Polisario said its forces had attacked on July 19 after getting through the wall.

A major said that a Polisario attack had occurred against a support point on that date but had been repulsed after two hours. He showed three trucks armed with multiple rocket launchers which had been destroyed, along with a machine-gun, rockets and rifles which had been abandoned by the Polisario. (A.F.P.)

CSO: 4500/259

PHOSPHATE MINE REOPENED

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 25, 26 Jul 82 p 8

[Text]

Morocco has taken an important step towards strengthening its political and economic stability by reopening the Bou Craa phosphate mine in the embattled Western Sahara. The mine is one of the richest in the world, with reserves estimated at about 1.7 billion tonnes of high-grade ore, and it has been closed since 1975 as the result of repeated attacks by Polisario Front guerrillas. The mine was reopened on July 10, which was King Hassan's 53rd birthday.

On the political front, reopening the Bou Craa mine underscores both Morocco's determination to maintain its hold on the "useful" part of the former Spanish Sahara and the Kingdom's ability to deny Polisario access to the territory's main sources of wealth and population centres. The move is all the more important in that it comes only weeks before the Organisation of African Unity is due to meet in Tripoli, where the future of the Western Sahara is bound to stand high on the agenda. Libya and neighbouring Algeria both support Polisario and so Morocco can scarcely expect a favourable outcome of an OAU debate held under the chairmanship of Libya's Col Moammar Qadhafi — and the issue is one that threatened to wreck the organisation earlier this year when Polisario was admitted to a meeting as a full member; Morocco persuaded enough states to withdraw from the conference to deny it a quorum. Resumption of mining at Bou Craa is thus in some ways a practical assertion of Moroccan intentions while much of the support the guerrillas can expect at

Tripoli will be essentially of a rhetorical nature.

In terms of Morocco's economy, reopening the mine is not expected to have an immediate impact. Morocco's exports of phosphate rock were down by 5.4 per cent to 15.6 million tonnes last year but overall earnings from phosphates were up by 27 per cent at MD 3.8 billion (\$636 million) because of higher prices. The price of rock has fallen since then by an average of \$8 to about \$40 per tonne and demand is unlikely to rise. The Bou Craa mine built by the Spanish is designed to produce 10 million tons of phosphate rock a year, but exports amounted to only 2.2 million tons in 1974, the last full year of operations. But control of Bou Craa is of considerable importance to Morocco's Office Chérifien des Phosphates in determining its marketing strategy and the refurbished mine will add flexibility to OCP's production capacity.

Bou Craa is linked to the Atlantic by 60 miles of German-built conveyor belt and this had to be repaired before the mine could be worked once again. A power station, a treatment plant for phosphate rock and a loading pier have also been brought back into operation.

Morocco is defending Bou Craa and the rest of "useful" Western Saharan territory by some 400 miles of minefields, barbed wire and bulldozed ridges of sand and rock three metres high. Polisario forces are outside the defences and attempts to penetrate them in January and earlier this month proved unsuccessful.

OFFICIAL CALLS FOR GRADUAL REPLACEMENT OF FOREIGN LABOR FORCE

Muscat AL-WATAN in Arabic 14 Jun 82 p 2

[Article: "Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Speaks About Plans To Train Omani Cadres To Replace Foreign Workers"]

[Text] In an exclusive and comprehensive interview with a reporter for the broadcasting company his excellency Shaykh Ibrahim ibn Hamad al-Harithi, deputy minister of Labor and Social Affairs, announced that providing a native labor force with specialized technical skills is an extremely important goal. His majesty Sultan Qabus is concerned with this goal and it is one aspect of his support for investors.

He said that the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is making a major effort and is using every means to provide this skilled native labor force because it considers it a valuable driving force for the country's comprehensive development plans.

He said that to reach the goals that have been set the ministry is working to send groups of outstanding graduates who have completed 3 years of study and training to special intensive training classes in neighboring Bahrain and in the United Kingdom. Local classes will be organized in coordination with the parties concerned. There will also be local intensive training which the ministry has recently organized in coordination with the Institute of Wales in Great Britain, in which 27 graduates have participated.

Professional Training

With regard to professional training his excellency said that the General Office For Professional Training is now engaged in studies and is making preparations connected with establishing a higher technical institute, the first of its kind in the country.

He said that a decision was made to build this institute in the al-Khuwayr district of the capital according to the most modern specifications. The sum of 9 million Omani riyals has been allocated for it. It will accept graduates of the existing centers in accordance with specific conditions and will enable graduates of the professional training centers to obtain greater technical specialization. This will create technical cadres skilled in the specialties required by the national development plans in numerous technical fields.

He added that within the framework of the ongoing preparations to establish the institute an agreement has been made with the British institute regarding joint participation in devising curricula, and monitoring and evaluating them.

His excellency said that this institute will open in the 1983-84 school year. The length of study at the institute has been set at 4 years. When it opens it will accept between 140 and 160 students in the first class. The entire institute will eventually have a capacity of 420 students.

Housing Projects

In response to a question about the ministry's plans to provide low-cost housing for the citizens his excellency said, "To accomplish this the ministry is building many new clean housing projects for the citizens in various rural and urban areas. Building suitable housing is one of the most important vital goals assigned to this ministry by his highness Sultan Qabus. This is the way to create the right atmosphere for raising a strong generation and to meet the Omani people's continuous need for suitable housing."

Shaykh al-Harithi said that 39.5 million Omani riyals has been allocated to meet the citizens' growing need for low-cost housing in the capital and its suburbs.

The sum of 3,665,570 Omani riyals has also been allocated for construction of low-cost housing in the administrative districts and other regions.

His excellency said that 556 housing units have in fact been built and distributed under the current plan in various parts of the country.

He added that construction of 1,429 housing units in the al-Khuwayr district of the capital and in other parts of other administrative districts is now in full swing.

Social Security

In response to a question about social security benefits enjoyed by Omani citizens his excellency said that the social security umbrella extends to all parts of the sultanate and now covers 19,150 families and cases. The monthly sum spent for these purposes on a regular basis is 472,980 Omani riyals, aside from other sums that the ministry spends for victims of public and individual disasters who urgently need emergency assistance.

His excellency said that the General Office of Social Affairs is continually working on various studies and research on the circumstances of needy families under observation, and developing skills on the basis of these methods. This is being done to arrive at the best methods and to come up with the most appropriate ways for optimum utilization and insurance assistance in accordance with current requirements.

The Home For the Aged

Shaykh al-Harithi turned to the subject of the home for the aged which the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs built to house old people. He said, "The

primary purpose of the home that was built in 1979 was to provide comprehensive care and aid services and to provide permanent shelter for those who deserve this kind of care."

His excellency said that social studies had confirmed that the problem of beggars was not serious enough to worry the ministry because Omani society is ruled by a spirit of unity and love and respect for one's fellow man. He said that the ministry cares for the Omani aged, provides care for them in their homes and assists them in their housing needs. It does this by providing them with various kinds of technical and financial assistance in addition to repairing their homes and improving their circumstances.

Providing an Omani Labor Force

At the conclusion of his talk with the broadcasting company correspondent the deputy minister of labor and social affairs stated that the ministry was making plans to create an Omani labor force to replace foreign workers by concentrating on creating opportunities for work, employment and training on the broadest possible scale for Omani citizens, and by not permitting non-Omanis to continue to work in the sultanate unless they have technical skills or expertise needed by the country.

He said that this will be accomplished in coordination with the parties concerned, such as the Bureau of Immigration and Permits and businessmen, and by diversifying the sources of foreign workers and more extensive utilization of Arab workers to meet the country's needs in various specialized areas.

9123

CSO: 4404/560

BRIEFS

MILITARY CORPORATION PROJECTS--Khartoum, 1 Aug (SUNA)--The military economic corporation has purchased 15 automatic bakeries from France, costing five million dollars. Three of them have been delivered and the rest will be delivered next September, announced an official source at the corporation. The bakeries constitute part of project the corporation is planning to implement in the fields of agricultural, trade, industry, services and transportation in order to boost the armed forces' contribution to national production, he said. The corporation has contacted the British Bedford Company for establishing an assembly factory for the company's truck and Land Rover cars. The British company has showed interest in the project and gave its initial consent, the source added. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4203, 31 Jul 82 p 3]

HAIYA PUMPING STATION PROJECT--Khartoum, 31 Jul (SUNA)--The German Development Bank has agreed, in principal, to grant 5 million Deutsche Marks to the General Petroleum Corporation (G.P.). An official source at the G.P. said the grant will be used in financing the electric works of Haiya pumping station, due to be accomplished by July 1982. This will enable the corporation to meet all the Eastern Region needs of petroleum materials. Another 26 million Francs will be granted by France in the framework of the Sudanese-Franco Protocol for the provision of mechanical equipment for the project, SUNA learned. The corporation will receive the two grants during the next two months, the source said. The corporation commenced the execution of the project in December 1981. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4203, 31 Jul 82 p 5]

AL-JAZIRAH CANALS--Tremendous efforts have been expended for cleaning and excavating canals in the al-Jazirah scheme and preparations for the new agricultural season are satisfactory, said the scheme's agricultural administration director. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4201, 29 Jul 82 p 9]

INCREASED PIPELINE CAPACITY--Khartoum, 30 Jul (SUNA)--Four thousand tons of benzine will arrive at Shajarah depots today through the pipeline, a responsible source at the Petroleum Public Corporation told SUNA. The pipeline has started its full capacity pumping at the rate of 85 cubic metres per hour since May 31, 1982 compared to 35 cubic metres per hour during the 1st year in November, 1977, the source added. The rise in production rate was due to the implementation of the pipeline development programme, the source further added. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4202, 30 Jul 82 p 5]

POWER CUTS PROGRAM--Khartoum, July 20, (SUNA)--The National Electricity Corporation (N.E.C.) resumed, as from last week, implementing a programme of power cuts from residential areas. The cuts will also affect factories following the Id holiday and will continue till Sep. 15, SUNA learnt. According to the Director of the NEC Muhammad Nasr Abu-Bakr, the shortage in power supply has been the aftermath of flaws in six transformers of the capital's distribution. He said East Germany and Poland suppliers of transformers, had stopped supplying because the NEC was unable to fulfil its financial commitments towards agreements and loans signed in this connection. Meanwhile, he said the Corporation within the coming few days will sign an agreement with Romania to furnish 1600 transformers at the cost of 7.5 million dollars. He also said there were negotiations on the issue with Egypt and People's China in the context of bilateral trade agreements. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4192, 20 Jul 82 pp 8, 9]

TOMBURA STATEMENT--Juba, July 19 (SUNA)--"My administration shall strive to establish restore and rehabilitate the confidence, unity and integrity of our people in accordance with the spirit of the May Revolution," announced Joseph Tombura, president of the H.E.C. of the Southern region. Delivering the policy statement of his government before the Regional Peoples Assembly here yesterday, Tombura indicated that the cornerstone of his government would be decentralization. To this effect, he added, his government would implement the Peoples Local Government Act 1981. He further cited the developmental priorities in: infrastructure, agriculture and natural resources, education, social services, combatting maladministration, and mobilizing the organs responsible for maintenance of security, law and order. "The South, Mr Speaker Sir, under the Southerners during the last ten years has suffered from a number of political and administrative malpractices that have rendered the South unviable as a single place, matters of public concern and interest to our people have been bedeviled by rampant malpractices which are incompatible with values and norms of good government," he said. Such malpractices, he indicated, had given rise to the call for redivision of the South by greater Equatorial and other parts of the Southern Region, "a call which as you very well know has resulted into a lot of political controversy all over the Southern region," he said. He concluded by stressing that adopting the concept of unity in diversity necessitates selflessness and hard work to provide services and development to the people. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4192, 20 Jul 82 p 7]

CSO: 4500/258

PROGRESS REPORTED FOR EMIRATES NATIONAL BANK

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 30 Jul 82 p 3

[Text]

ABU DHABI (EN): A maiden dividend of 10 per cent for 1981 was declared by the board of directors of Emirates National Bank of Dubai on Wednesday.

Since its inception in 1978, the bank ploughed back its entire profits into reserves for strengthening its capital base and the shareholders have now been rewarded for their patience and waiting, said bank's chairman Majed Ahmed Al Ghurair. He drew satisfaction that notwithstanding a narrowing of interest spreads, the bank recorded a net profit of Dh. 8.6 million (U.S. \$2.34m) after charging all expenses, providing for bad and doubtful debts and transfer to inner reserves. The balance of profits available after dividend distribution has been appropriated to reserves, raising shareholders' funds to Dh. 59 m (US \$16.1m) as at the end of December 1981.

At the shareholders' meeting, it was decided to raise the paid-up capital of the bank from Dh. 33.8m (US \$9.2m) to Dh. 132 m (US \$35.9 m) by calling in a major portion of the existing subscribed capital of Dh. 150 m (US \$40.8 m).

The bank's total assets were up by a record 133 per cent during 1981 from Dh. 230.6 m (US \$62.8 m) to Dh. 538 million (US \$ 146.5m); deposits more than doubled from Dh. 177.2 m (US \$48.2 m) to Dh. 377.8 m (US \$102.8 m), while loans and advances rose 65 per cent from Dh. 182 m (US \$49.6 m) to Dh. 300.5 m (US \$81.8 m).

With the increase in capital this year, the ratio of capital funds to deposits stands presently at around 38 per cent, which is among the highest for any bank in this part of the world.

Reviewing other major achievements, the bank's chairman expressed happiness at the fact that during the last year and a half the bank has been able to build up and cement correspondent relationships with leading international banks in many parts of the world, develop money market activities and participate, in a larger measure, in loan and guarantee syndications promoted by well known banking institutions.

Majed Ahmed Al Ghurair expects the bank's profits in the current year to be much higher than in 1981 and he felt hopeful that the shareholders could look for even better rewards in the ensuing years.

HOUSING FOR FEDERAL WORKERS PLANNED

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 3 Aug 82 p 3

[Text]

ABU DHABI (WAM): The Cabinet yesterday approved the draft law to house federal employees working in Abu Dhabi emirate.

A decree on the procedures of implementing the housing plan which would benefit employees from the 1/1 to the 3/2 grade, would be issued later.

Houses will be distributed according to the grade of the employee, his marital status, the number of children, while bachelors will share houses.

Rents in Abu Dhabi are relatively high compared to those in the other emirates.

In Abu Dhabi, the housing scheme will be implemented after the decree is signed by the Prime Minister.

Ministries, after receiving the scheme, will categorise employees who desire to benefit from it and those who want to receive housing allowance.

The system will cover federal civil employees, police and the staff employed under Cabinet-approved special cadres.

According to the scheme, the federal employee will have to choose between housing allowance and a government house. This choice will be final except when an employer who is a bachelor or a widower gets married.

The government will allocate houses if they are available and subject to the following terms:

Married employees with one, two or three children of less than 10 years of age will be granted a two-bedroom flat;

Married employees with three or more children of more than 18 years of age will be entitled to a three-bedroom flat;

Bachelor employees will get one bedroom flat in a shared building.

According to the rules, the beneficiaries under this scheme can continue in the apartment they are occupying provided their rent contract is transferred to the Finance and Industry Ministry if conditions allowing such a step are feasible.

The draft system also regulates the cases of employees working in remote

areas and those who occupy government houses as well as couples if they are both federal government employees or if one of the works in the private sector.

The Cabinet also approved a memorandum from the Ministry of Finance and Industry to increase the UAE share in the capital of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and for depositing ten million dollars in the Central Bank for this purpose.

It also approved the UAE participation in the Islamic Solidarity Fund together with West African countries to fight drought.

The Cabinet agreed to join five international and Arab economic organisations - the Arab Fund for Economic Development, the Arab Marine Company for Oil Transport, the Industrial Company for Drugs and Medical Equipment, the International Development Association and the International Monetary Fund.

Other memoranda from the Ministries of Information, Finance and Industry and Education as well as the Permanent Committee for Projects were also approved.

UMM AL-QAYWAYA RECREATION CENTER PLANNED

Dubbay KHALEEJ TIMES in English 28 Jul 82 p 3

[Article by Latheef Farook]

[Text]

UMM Al Quwain's historic Seeniyya Island, where the bulk of the emirate's population lived before migrating to the mainland, is being developed into a recreation centre to attract both domestic and foreign tourists.

Many parts of the 20 km long island have already been cleared and afforestation work has been started.

Speaking about the project in an interview with Khaleej Times yesterday, Mr Sultan Mohamed Ali Omair, director of Umm Al Quwain Municipality, said the ambitious project was bound to make the emirate popular not only in the country but also in the neighbouring states.

According to historical records, he said, the island had been inhabited by people for centuries before they abandoned it for some unknown reason and migrated to their present settlements about three centuries ago. The migration was swift and total.

He said that there were archaeological evidences that the island had been invited.

The authorities have, however, banned all archaeological excavations on the island in order to protect its

historical landmarks.

He said that once developed, the island, about half an hour's boat journey from the mainland, would be a very popular holiday resort, particularly for local people. Modern facilities would be provided on the island in keeping with the country's religious and cultural traditions, he said.

About other projects he said the second phase of the street lighting plan and about 70 per cent of the road and footpath work in the city had been completed. As part of the city beautification programme, many roundabouts had been planted with saplings.

A new municipality building and a market with separate sections for fish, meat and vegetables would be built soon. Tenders for them would be called next month.

A new power station and a desalination plant would be built a little away from the city, which would solve the emirate's electricity and water problems. The project, being undertaken by the Ministry of Electricity and Water, would be completed in about three years.

Although power supply had been a constant problem in the past, especially during summer, there had been no difficulties so far this year.

NEW POWER PLANT IN JAIBL 'ALI

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 28 Jul 82 p 2

[Article by Raman Kapoor]

[Text]

THE new gas-based power plant at Jebel Ali is to start commercial production early next month. Its 42mw gas turbine is on trial run now.

This will raise the installed capacity for power generation in Dubai to 732 mw as against the present peak demand of 527.5mw. The demand is expected to rise to about 540 mw this year.

The contract, handled by the Elin Union of Austria on a turnkey basis, was awarded in June 1981.

Order for another 42mw gas turbine has been placed with the same contractor and it is expected to start commercial production by April 1983.

Work on the first of the three 75 mw units of the Jebel Ali thermal power and desalination plant is progressing. The first unit is to go on stream by July 1983, the second by October 1983 and the third by January 1984. The desalination unit is to produce 5.72 million gallons of water daily.

When all these plants go on stream, the Dubai Electricity Company will have a generating capacity of 1,000mw by early 1984. The expected demand then is 730mw.

Dubai has 16 diesel generating

units, producing a total of 30mw of power, 16 gas turbine units generating 320mw, and five thermal turbine units producing 340mw. Then total power generation is 690mw.

The demand for power is expected to grow at the rate of 12 to 15 per cent in the next few years, according to a DEC spokesman. The maximum demand will be about 1,000mw by 1987, and the proposed plant additions will be able to meet it.

The DEC has set up a centre at Mushriff to monitor the operation of the power system. It is called Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA).

Supervisory control of the 132kv transmission network and monitoring of generation and secondary transmission are its major functions. The heart of the system is a process computer. The operator can communicate with the computer from his desk equipped with alphanumeric and technological keyboards.

SCADA is also able to re-schedule power generation by various plants to achieve overall fuel economy.

The system was pressed into operation a few days ago after successful trials. The spokesman said it would greatly aid the load despatcher and improve the quality of service to consumers.

BRIEFS

AL-FUJAYRAH HOUSING COMPLEX--A massive residential complex costing over 100 million dirhams is coming up in Fujairah. It will be ready by the end of the year, a spokesman said. The complex, being built in 82,000 square metres of prime land on the main road to Fujairah, will consist of 16 residential buildings with 24 apartments in each. Construction of the complex was taken up because of the growing demand for houses in the emirate in the wake of economic and social development. Contractors for the complex are Bin Ladin, Khatib and Alami are the consultants. Work is also progressing on three markets being constructed by Fujairah Municipality. The markets are for fish, meat, vegetables and fruits. Two are in Fujairah city and the third in Dibba. [Text] [Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 30 Jul 82 p 2]

DUBAYY FREE TRADE ZONE--Dubai's experiment in free trade zones (FTZ) has proved to be a spectacular success. Import and exports through the FTZ in Jebel Ali more than doubled during last year. In its first year of operations, the FTZ at the airport transacted business worth Dh 34,935 million in imports and Dh 46,580 million in exports. Statistics relating to the zone in Jebel Ali just released by the Dubai government showed imports at Dh 949,441 million and exports at Dh 936,498 million last year. In 1980 imports through this facility were worth Dh 400,479 million and exports were valued at Dh 393,788 million. Exports from the FTZ at the airport were made to as many as 20 countries with Iran heading the list. Destinations also included developed countries like West Germany, Britain, the US and Sweden, indicating that the zone had become popular not only with Dubai's traditional markets but its sources of import as well. Twenty countries also served as sources of import with West Germany leading the list with a turnover of Dh 15.16 million. Japan, traditionally the biggest exporter to Dubai is second but it is way behind in turnover with only Dh 3.6 million to its credit. Imports into the Jebel Ali FTZ came from 38 countries led by Japan, followed by the US and Singapore. Exports were made to 23 countries with Iran at the top of the list. Sales worth Dh 154,250 were also made to the duty-free shop at the airport. Encouraged by the success of the zones at Jebel Ali and the airport, the Dubai government has now set up an FTZ at Port Rashid. Rules governing the new facility were made public at the end of June and it is widely believed that this zone located at Dubai's primary port will also prove to be equally attractive to importers and exporters. [Text] [Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 3 Aug 82 p 1]

CSO: 4400/416

IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL CHARTER, ROLE OF PEOPLE'S CONGRESS DISCUSSED

San'a' AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 29 Jun 82 pp 1-2

[Article by the Saba' News Agency: "The President Addresses the Speaker and Members of the People's Assembly: 'The Work Done by the People's Assembly Represents an Important Criterion for Aspects of Development and It Reveals Our Popular and Official Aspirations to Create a Just and Democratic Society'"]

[Text] The prime minister: "Our experiment in democracy is bound by the provisions of our laws and our constitution, and it stems from the interests of our people and our nation."

Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander of the armed forces, asserted that the holding of general elections will increase our country's strength and its confidence in the soundness of the democratic path which it has chosen according to the will and convictions of our people. He said that they will constitute consolidation of the people's victory which is being achieved by our country through the holding of the General People's Congress and the ratification of the National Charter.

He expressed his ardent desire that democracy [in Yemen] continue to become a reality by means of preparing the country for the holding of the general elections after the General People's Congress is held. He said that this marks the crowning achievement of 21 years of existence of our eternal 26 September Revolution and is an expression of our civilized democratic behavior and approach which we inherited from our fathers and grandfathers who were the builders of ancient civilizations and the founders of real democracy.

President Salih met with the speaker of the Constituent People's Assembly and with the members of the Assembly's Permanent Committee the night before last. This was one of the open meetings which the president has been holding with [representatives of] the various sectors of our nation's population during the month of Ramadan. During this meeting he said that the Constituent People's Assembly has a greater role to play in assuring the success of the process of the general elections after completion of the phase of preparing for holding these elections and dividing up [the country's] electoral districts on the basis of the population census. He said that this will

guarantee to all Yemeni citizens their right to vote for whomever they choose as their representatives in the elected Consultative Council.

The president went on to say: "The Constituent People's Assembly must play an important role in effectively participating in insuring the success of the General People's Congress which will be reviewing the final text of the National Charter and ratifying it. This is a role which is in harmony with efforts made by the Assembly to make complete preparations for the holding of direct general elections [of the members of] the Consultative Council. It is [the existence of this Consultative Council] which will, in deed and in practice, affirm the fact that parliamentary democracy will remain an important part of the ideal approach toward exercising democracy in Yemen. This is because it stems from the reality of our glorious history and is something which is traditionally and authentically Yemeni. It represents a radiant face for all-encompassing democracy in the Yemen Arab Republic--a democracy of constitutional and popular institutions as well as a democracy of spontaneous initiatives."

The president also praised all of the efforts made by the speaker and members of the Constituent People's Assembly in preparing for the Consultative Council elections and debating and ratifying the laws which are linked to the crucial aspirations of our people and nation. He said that they represent a great achievement for our country along the path of building a nation of law and order. He said that this confirms the fact that the Assembly has performed, and still is performing, its proper role in the implementation of the tasks assigned to it as the legislative authority which assures compliance with the constitution and carries out the will of the people in overseeing the implementation of the laws.

The president also praised the role of the Assembly in pursuing Yemen's policy via the evolving relations which it has established with the parliaments of the Arab nations and other nations and by means of the activity which the Assembly has undertaken in the realm of representing our country abroad and providing a picture of our country's evolving democracy to the peoples of other nations. He went on to say: "This is why work in the Constituent People's Assembly represents an important criterion for aspects of development which our nation has achieved and reveals both our popular and our official aspirations--which are felt in the life of our Yemen of today--to achieve the creation of a just, democratic, and prosperous society."

At the end of his speech, the president said that the objective of this meeting, as well as of all the other meetings during the month of Ramadan with the various sectors of the Yemeni people, is [for him] to become acquainted with the concerns and opinions of all of these categories of people concerning all of our national issues. He said that utilizing [his knowledge of these concerns and opinions] increases the chances for success of the efforts made to bring greater advancement and prosperity to our nation. He told them that he was glad to hear their ideas and opinions and to discuss with them, in a democratic spirit, everything that concerns all of us.

He extended his greetings to the speaker of the People's Assembly and members of the Permanent Committee--and via them to all of the members of the Constituent People's Assembly--on the occasion of the beginning of the blessed month of Ramadan. He wished success to all of them and beseeched God to make this month a month of bounty and blessings for our people and a month of victories for the Arabs over the Zionist invaders who are their enemies.

The floor was then taken by Judge 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, vice president of the republic and speaker of the Constituent People's Assembly. On behalf of all of those present he extended his greetings to President Salih on the occasion of the arrival of the month of Ramadan and, on behalf of all of the members of the Constituent People's Assembly, he expressed his thanks and appreciation for all of the efforts being made by the president to bring about stability and security in our country.

He went on to say: "These meetings with various official sectors and sectors of our population, as well as the achievements which have been brought about within the space of 1 year, are definite proof of [your] loyalty and sincerity to this nation and its people and are proof of [your] serious efforts to consolidate real democracy in our country."

"We also assure you of the support of the Constituent People's Assembly for the courageous steps undertaken by you, the president, concerning the Palestine cause and concerning opening up the doors for people to volunteer for the ranks of the Palestinian Revolution and to be sent as volunteers to participate in putting a stop to the treacherous Israeli aggression."

"The Assembly is prepared to do its sacred duty to the best of its ability."

"The Assembly also supports all steps which are being taken by our political leaders both inside the country and abroad."

The vice president then pointed out that, since the People's Assembly has had the support of the president in the performance of its duty, the Assembly has been able to achieve a great deal in the realm of consolidating the democratic practices which are taking root in our country. He said that these achievements include the making of preparations for the holding of the general elections and dividing up the areas of the country into electoral districts. He assured that the Assembly will continue its efforts which are being made in the interests of the nation, under the leadership of President Salih and with the guidance of his valuable and wise directives.

Then Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, the prime minister, talked. He expressed his happiness about being able to participate in this meeting with the members of the Permanent Committee of the People's Assembly after a whole year had gone by since the president had met with the committee. He said that it was due to the president's firm, permanent, and wise instructions that so many national achievements had been carried out during the year, that an atmosphere of total harmony and sincere cooperation had prevailed among the executive bodies and legislative authority, and that this atmosphere had become an example to be followed by all organizations.

He asserted that everybody was convinced that the president's constant talk about democracy is talk which is straightforward and will not change, that the experiment being engaged in by our country is a democratic experiment in every meaning and sense of the word, that the actions of all of our government bodies and authorities are bound by the provisions of our laws and our constitution, and that they enjoy stability and permanence in relationships based on the interests of our nation and our people.

The prime minister also said that it is necessary to complete the constitutional foundations of political life in our country and that this is one of the important conditions for completing the legitimacy [of this political system]. He said that democracy--along with all of its formative elements which should be completed, God willing, during the next few months--is the foremost and final authority among the citizens of our nation. He said that it is the only air which the lungs of our people should be breathing, that there should be no deviation from this path, and that all feelings of latent hatred should be avoided.

He pointed out that all of the nationwide steps which have been carried out during this last year, especially those in the realm of stability and national security, were a result of [the president's] decisiveness, a result of the fact that he arrived on the scene at the right time, and a reflection of his sincere orientation, integrity, and loyalty to his nation.

At the conclusion of his speech, he repeated his good wishes to the president and the Yemeni people on the occasion of this meeting which was taking place. He said that, at the present time, our country is in a better situation and that now we are beginning a new 5-year plan which has total domestic, Arab, and international support and the guidelines of which are [widely] respected and esteemed. He repeated his assertion that this was primarily due to the president and his wise orientation and the stability of the policy which our country is following.

This meeting was attended by 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, vice president of the republic, Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, prime minister, Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Husayn al-Ahmar, member of the Consultative Council, 'Abd al-Malik al-Tayyib, member of the Consultative Council, Husayn al-Hubayshi, minister of state and legal advisor to both the president and the prime minister, and Ahmad al-Shijni, minister of state for People's Constituent Assembly affairs.

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